

FIRST BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIP ISSUE

SHOOT!

15p

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Q.P.R.
TEAM GROUP

Features
and Photos:

N. IRELAND
v. ENGLAND
WALES
v. SCOTLAND
ENGLAND
v. WALES
SCOTLAND
v. N. IRELAND

Northern Ireland centre-half Allan Hunter (number five) rises above Kevin Keegan to clear during the last Northern Ireland/England game in Belfast, 1975 (0-0).



A REFRESHING CHANGE

THE British Championship, which begins this Saturday (May 28th), forms the climax to a season extended in England to accommodate Don Revie's need for footloose-free Saturdays for his players involved in World Cup qualifying games.

For players called up for duty with all four Home nations, it provides a refreshing change from the relentless grind of League and Cup matches, a chance to exercise their patriotism,

play alongside the very finest their country can muster, and aim for another prestigious trophy.

For their managers it's the opportunity to settle on team blends and tactics for World Cup qualifying games. And in the cases of Don Revie and the Scotland manager, for their close season tours of South America, too.

Invariably, the Championship is the stage on which young talent reveals

the outstanding quality that stamps them as tomorrow's stars.

The Championship opens with Northern Ireland v England and Wales v Scotland. Then the Welsh come to Wembley to play England on Tuesday, May 31st. And on June 1st, Scotland entertain Northern Ireland. All four matches are featured in our well-illustrated articles.

But we haven't forgotten Eire readers. Player-manager Johnny Giles

talks about the Republic's vital World Cup qualifying game away against Bulgaria on page 29.

David Gregory

EDITOR

BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIP winners 1883-1976



Terry Neill, then Northern Ireland's player-manager, scores his country's only and winning goal against England in the 1972 British Championship.

Year	Champions	Pts	Year	Champions	Pts	Year	Champions	Pts
1883-84	Scotland	6	1912-13	England	4	1953-54	England	6
1884-85	Scotland	5	1913-14	Ireland	5	1954-55	England	6
1885-86	{ England	5	1919-20	Wales	4	1955-56	England	3
	Scotland	5	1920-21	Scotland	6		Scotland	3
1886-87	Scotland	6	1921-22	Scotland	4		Wales	3
1887-88	England	6	1922-23	Wales	6	1956-57	Ireland	3
1888-89	Scotland	5	1923-24	Scotland	6	1957-58	England	5
1889-90	{ Scotland	5	1924-25	Scotland	6		Ireland	4
	England	5	1925-26	Scotland	4		England	4
1890-91	England	6	1926-27	{ England	4	1958-59	England	4
1891-92	England	6	1927-28	Wales	5	1959-60	{ England	4
1892-93	England	6	1928-29	Scotland	6		Scotland	4
1893-94	Scotland	5	1929-30	England	6		Wales	4
1894-95	England	5	1930-31	{ Scotland	4	1960-61	England	6
1895-96	Scotland	5	1931-32	England	4	1961-62	Scotland	6
1896-97	Scotland	5	1932-33	England	6	1962-63	Scotland	6
1897-98	England	6	1933-34	Wales	5	1963-64	{ Scotland	4
1898-99	England	6	1934-35	{ Wales	5		England	4
1899-1900	Scotland	6	1935-36	{ England	4		Ireland	4
1900-01	England	5	1936-37	Scotland	4	1964-65	England	5
1901-02	Scotland	5	1937-38	Wales	6	1965-66	England	5
1902-03	{ England	4	1938-39	{ England	4	1966-67	Scotland	5
	Ireland	4		Scotland	4	1967-68	England	5
	Scotland	4		Wales	5	1968-69	England	6
1903-04	England	5		{ England	4	1969-70	England	4
1904-05	England	5		Scotland	4		Scotland	4
1905-06	{ England	4		Wales	4		Wales	4
	Scotland	4	1946-47	England	5	1970-71	England	5
1906-07	Wales	5	1947-48	England	5	1971-72	England	4
1907-08	{ Scotland	5	1948-49	Scotland	6	1972-73	Scotland	4
	England	5	1949-50	England	6		England	6
1908-09	England	6	1950-51	Scotland	6		England	4
1909-10	Scotland	4	1951-52	{ Wales	5	1973-74	England	4
1910-11	England	5	1952-53	{ England	5	1974-75	Scotland	4
1911-12	{ England	5		England	4		England	4
	Scotland	5		Scotland	4	1975-76	Scotland	6

MAHONEY: It's nice speaking to you, Alan, but I can assure you there will be no pleasantries when our countries meet on Saturday. This is going to be a rousing game and you can expect a busy 90 minutes.

ROUGH: Thanks for the warning, John. However, let me say right away that I have now played against Wales twice—and been on the winning side each time. Remember, we beat you 3-1 in the Championship last season and, of course, we took two points in a World Cup game with a 1-0 victory.

MAHONEY: I must point out I did not play in these games, Alan. I'm not saying it would have made any difference to both results, of course, but I would have liked to have played in those matches at Hampden.

ROUGH: I know your manager Mike Smith did not field his top side in the Championship game, but that was a fairly useful team he put out for the World Cup-tie. You were missing because of your injury, and obviously your absence leaves a problem in the middle of the park.

MAHONEY: Nice of you to say so. And talking about midfielders, Scotland had a superb one last term in Archie Gemmill, Don Masson and Bruce Rioch. Things have altered, though, haven't they? Gemmill received a head injury in training and Rioch was transferred from Derby to Everton. Queens Park Rangers have struggled to retain last season's form and Masson's own game has been affected.

BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIP CROSSTALK

WALES v SCOTLAND May 28th, Wrexham

ON Saturday the two World Cup rivals meet in a British Championship match which could be vital in their respective efforts to clinch a place in Argentina next year.

Today SHOOT offers a platform between two stars of either country — Wales's talented midfielder John Mahoney of Stoke City and Scotland goalkeeper Alan Rough of Partick Thistle.

ROUGH: I'm certain these players will leave their club problems behind them when they play for Scotland. And, don't forget we

have the likes of Manchester City's Asa Hartford and Birmingham's Kenny Burns just waiting to get an opportunity to show their skills on a consistent basis.

MAHONEY: That's true, and it emphasises the strength in depth of the Scottish pools these days. You look through it and there are so many good names. One of your strengths is undoubtedly Danny McGrain. He just never seems to put a foot wrong, does he? He really is quite remarkable.

ROUGH: I agree with you there, John. It's great to play behind such a dependable player as McGrain. When he goes in for a ball you know the odds are always with him. I was delighted for him when he won the Scottish Football Writers' Player of the Year this season. He certainly deserved that

have any bearing on our forthcoming World Cup-tie?

MAHONEY: I'm sure both countries will be playing it tight while feeling each other out. I don't know if the actual result will have any bearing on the World Cup game. I mean, Wales could be all over Scotland for 89 minutes and then lose concentration for one minute and lose the match. That happens in football all the time.

ROUGH: I have never heard of Scotland being put under pressure for 89 minutes, but I take your point. And, as you must know, we have the players to punish any mistakes in your defence.

MAHONEY: I take it you are referring to the likes of Kenny Dalglish, Joe Jordan and Andy Gray. Yes, I agree with you there. That is quite an impressive front line. But don't forget we have some good forwards of our own. Everyone knows of the aerial ability of John Toshack, and look what Leighton James did to Czechoslovakia recently when he hit top form.

ROUGH: Anyway, it was nice chatting to you, John. I look forward to seeing you in action on Saturday.

MAHONEY: I just hope I am fit to play, Alan. It's a drag being on the sidelines when there is so much happening. I'm really looking forward to getting involved again in the big matches.

'You can expect a busy 90 minutes'
— JOHN MAHONEY



recognition and I must take this opportunity in saying the runner-up is quite superb, too.

MAHONEY: I knew Danny came first, but I don't know who took second place. Who was it?

ROUGH: Alan Rough! I couldn't resist that, John. Seriously, though, do you think this game will

'Our players can punish mistakes'
— ALAN ROUGH

BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIP IT'S A FACT!

AFTER WALES had beaten N. Ireland 1-0 with a goal by Ronnie Rees at Swansea, April 25, 1970, they did not score in their next 11 games in the competition. Dave Smallman broke this dismal run when he netted the only goal of the game with N. Ireland at Wrexham, May 18, 1974.

England goalkeeper Frank Swift played the last 15 minutes of the 1948 game with Scotland while suffering with two broken ribs. Despite this handicap he kept the Scots out and England won 2-0.

The greatest number of goals scored in a single season of Championship games since World War Two is 19 by England in 1960-61. In that campaign England beat N. Ireland 5-2, Wales 5-1, and Scotland 9-3. England's scorers were Jimmy Greaves 7, Bobby Smith 4, Johnny Haynes 3, Bobby Charlton 2, Bryan Douglas 2, and Bobby Robson.

The highest number of goals conceded in a single season of these Championship games since World War Two is 17 by N. Ireland in 1949-50. That season they were beaten 8-2 by Scotland and 9-2 by England. Then they brought back Con Martin (Aston Villa) as centre-half and he played a blinder in a goalless draw with Wales at Wrexham.

Two of the fastest goals scored in Post-War Championship matches were both netted in the first minute. Tommy Ring (Clyde) scored in the opening minute for Scotland against England at Wembley in 1957, but his side was beaten 2-1. Harold Hassall (Huddersfield Town) scored after only 30 seconds for England against N. Ireland at Goodison Park in 1953, and they went on to win 3-1.

There have been many ding-dong battles among Post-War internationals but none fits that description more aptly than the game between N. Ireland and England in Belfast, October 4, 1975.

On a waterlogged pitch Ireland took the lead three times, but each time England equalised and the game ended in a 3-3 draw. Bobby Charlton was England's star scoring with two of his smashing left-foot shots. Danny Blanchflower was outstanding for the home side.

Scotland beat England 2-1 at Wembley with only ten men in 1963. This was before the days of substitutes in the competition and Scotland's skipper, Eric Caldow, was carried off with a broken leg after only six minutes. Despite this setback Scotland were two goals up at the interval, both scored by Rangers' Jimmy Baxter. It wasn't until ten minutes from the end that Bryan Douglas got England's only goal.

The first British Championship



Jimmy Greaves never failed to score against Northern Ireland.

game played under floodlights at Wembley was that between England and N. Ireland, November 20, 1963. England won 8-3. Jimmy Greaves and Terry Paine struck up a devastating partnership on the right wing that evening with Jimmy scoring four and Terry three. Bobby Smith completed England's scoring.

Jimmy Greaves scored a hat-trick in the space of only 12 minutes when England beat N. Ireland 4-3 in Belfast, October 3, 1964. This brought his tally of goals against N. Ireland to ten in four games. He never failed to score against N. Ireland.

Since World War Two the highest number of goals scored by a player making his debut in the Championship is four by Jack Rowley (Manchester United). That was against N. Ireland at Maine Road, November 16, 1949. England won 9-2. Jack had previously played for England against overseas countries.

The only country in the Championship for which there has been no scorer of more than a single goal when making his debut in any game since World War Two is Wales. Indeed, one has to go back 57 years to February 14, 1920, to his debut for Wales — Stanley Davies (P.N.E.) scored twice in a 2-2 draw against N. Ireland in Belfast.

Two players who scored more than once when making their international debut and yet never appeared again for their country were both with East Fife — Henry Morris and Charlie Fleming. Morris scored three goals for Scotland against N. Ireland in October, 1949, and Fleming got two against the same opposition in October, 1953.

The last player to score in all three of his country's Championship games in a single season was Colin Stein for Scotland in 1968-69 when he got one goal in each game.

'A CHANGE'

AFTER the past, long, long season — 42 League games, 19 in three Cups plus five internationals — you may think I'm feeling jaded, and that I'd like to get away from football and just sit in the sun with my boots off or paddle in the sea. But you'd be wrong.

I'm looking forward to being with the England squad for the British Championship and then the South American tour that follows.

It's a complete contrast to the club scene. Different officials, players and surroundings. "A change is as good as a rest," as the old saying goes.

England training is very light. In fact, it's more a series of limbering-up exercises. We may practise some moves, and shooting, and have a few games, but the emphasis is on creating a good off-field understanding between each other.

There'll also be talks in which manager Don Revie and his assistant Les Cocker analyse the next opposition and outline the tactics to be used.

The Championship and the South American trip should enable us to re-create the team spirit that emerged in last season's Bicentennial tournament in the U.S.A. and which enabled us to do well there and go on to Helsinki to beat



Finland 4-1 in our opening World Cup qualifying game.

Another objective is to find a balanced, settled side capable of beating Italy in that World Cup qualifier in November at Wembley, which could decide who gets that ticket to Argentina for the 1978 Finals.

Like us, the other three Home countries are all in with a chance of playing in football's greatest competition, although unfortunately Scotland and Wales are in the same group.

It would have been marvellous for all four to be involved in the Finals, as happened in 1958 in Sweden, when Ireland and Wales reached the Quarter-Finals.

England's first match in the British Championship is against Northern Ireland, and although it's scheduled to take place in Belfast, there is always the possibility that the venue will be switched to England — as in 1973 when Goodison Park, Everton, was chosen — because of the unrest in the province.

I deplore the mixing of politics with sport. Sport should encourage people to forget their differences not emphasise them.

I hope that we go to Belfast because I have many fond memories of the past occasion, in 1975, when we went over there. To be honest we were all a bit apprehensive, but the huge crowd gave us a tremendous, heart-warming reception.

I completely forgot about the letter, sent by a crank, containing a threat to kill me if I set foot in Ireland. I'd discussed it with Don Revie, who allowed me to decide whether or not to make the trip, and any fears I had were completely dispelled by that wonderful welcome.

Unfortunately, perhaps because both teams tried too hard to play the football the occasion merited, the game turned out to be a dull affair with no goals.

In recent years, clashes between the two countries have realised few goals, with the exception of last year when we resoundingly defeated the Irish by four goals to nil at Wembley.

'Wales are hard to beat at Wembley'

IS AS GOOD AS A REST'

It'll be interesting to see what type of football they'll be serving up this time, as they've had a change of manager.

The new boss is Danny Blanchflower, a former star international, and captain of the great Spurs side of the late Fifties and early Sixties.

Danny has a refreshing approach to the game, I'm told, and believes it should be played in an attractive, exciting fashion designed to please the fans.

I'm not convinced that this will necessarily bring the results that fans will appreciate, though.

Danny began his management with a sensational 2-2 draw against Holland — in Rotterdam — but his team haven't maintained their form. In fact, they crashed 5-0 to World Champions West Germany a few weeks ago in a friendly in Cologne.

So they'll be determined to make amends by putting up a good showing against us.

British Championship games are never easy to play in. You come up against players from the Football

League who know everything about you — your strong points and your shortcomings. Sometimes you even find yourself marked by a club team-mate.

A bonus, of course, is you get a chance to play alongside players from other clubs whom you admire.

Another aspect of the games

is they provide the opportunity for new players, particularly youngsters, to shine. Several of today's stars first came to prominence in this way.

With all respects to the Irish, I expect our next opponents, Wales, to give us an even harder game. In January, 1973, they held us to a draw, 1-1, and cost us a World Cup qualifying point. Many people believe it also cost us a place in the 1974 Finals!

That was my second game in an England shirt — the first had been against Wales, too, in 1972 at Cardiff, when we won 1-0.

In the 1973 British Championship game at Wembley we won well by three goals to nil.

But in 1975 the Welsh Dragons held us to a 2-2 draw in a real thriller.

Strangely enough, we always do well on their grounds. In 1974, again in Cardiff, we came away with a 2-0 victory — beat them at Wrexham in their 1976 Centenary game 2-1 — and returned to Cardiff in the last British Championship to win 1-0.

The Centenary game was especially memorable for me for two reasons. First, Wrexham is not far from where I live in North Wales, and I enjoyed showing the locals what I can do, and secondly because I was made England's captain for the first time. It's an honour that comes the way of very few players.

Wales manager Mike Smith probably has the best balanced side of all four nations at the moment, largely due to having a smaller pool of players to pick from.

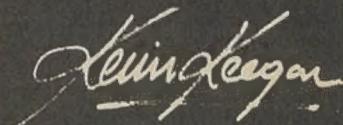
He often comes across for Liverpool games, to watch our John Toshack and Joey Jones, and recently I tackled him on the subject.

"You know you're fortunate," I said, "in not having a wide selection of players. You've got to stick by them. After a disappointing result, the Press can't call for the introduction of other players because they're simply not available."

Mike conceded I had a point, although he said he'd wished for a greater choice on occasions.

A good win over his Welsh lads will set us up for our next match at Wembley, against Scotland, our old enemies, who won the Championship last year.

I'll be previewing the climax to what promises to be a thrilling tournament next week.



'The Belfast crowd gave us a tremendous reception'



Left . . . David Johnson scores for England v Wales in a 2-2 draw in 1975.

Right . . . England in action in Belfast v N. Ireland in 1975.



NEW DECK

COMPILED BY PETER STEWART

PROGRAMME FAIR

THE THIRD International Football Programme Fair takes place at The Clarendon Banqueting Suite, 1-5 Hammersmith Broadway, London W.6, on Sunday, 5th June from 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Admission 35p at the door on the day, or 20p by ticket in advance from 53 Headley Drive, Gants Hill, Ilford, Essex (enclose SAE and 20p).

Welsh hopes

WITH their confidence sky-high after their 3-0 World Cup demolition of European Kings Czechoslovakia, at Wrexham, a few weeks ago, Wales will be enthusiastically seeking their first win over England in 22 years when Mike Smith's Red Dragons step out at Wembley next Tuesday evening (May 31).

But the Welsh also hope to end two other dismal records in the current series. They aim to score their first triumph over Scotland, either home or away, since their 3-2 Ninian Park success, back in 1964-65 and conquer Northern Ireland at Windsor Park for the first time in 12 years, their last victory at the Irish venue being a 5-0 win, on March 31, 1965.

— IT — HAPPENED THIS WEEK

In 1974 . . . Scotland beat England 2-0 at Hampden and so shared the British Championship title. Q.P.R. manager Gordon Jago changed his mind and said that his resignation was the result of a fit of temper. Rangers' Chairman Jim Gregory was happy to reinstate him. A sad week for Spurs, not only did they lose the U.E.F.A. Final to Feyenoord 2-0, but their fans rioted and disgraced their club.

In 1975 . . . Once again English football got a bad name in Europe. After Leeds United had lost to Bayern Munich in the European Cup Final 2-0 in Paris, the Leeds' fans went on the rampage in and around the ground. Kevin Keegan returned to the England squad following a long, reassuring talk with England manager Don Revie. England hammered Scotland 5-1 at Wembley with Gerry Francis scoring twice. The fans had a long walk to the Stadium, as bus and tube staff refused to carry them.

In 1976 . . . Wales went out of the European Championship when they could only draw 1-1 with Yugoslavia at Cardiff where the crowd threw objects on to the pitch. England lost to a last-minute goal against Brazil in Los Angeles. It was the first game of the American Bicentennial Tournament. Carlisle paid £50,000 for Ian MacDonald of St. Johnstone.

• There's a very interesting 100 metres race coming up in the next series of B.B.C.'s "Superstars".

Two of the fastest players in the League — Malcolm Macdonald and Mike Channon — line-up against each other.

Mind you, they'll be hard pushed by rugby flier J. P. R. Williams and shot-put "heavy" Geoff Capes has some handy sprint times under his belt, we're told.

• Despite denials, don't be too surprised if Peter Shilton DOES leave Stoke City to join Manchester United this summer.

LEAGUE OF IRELAND club Shelbourne are moving back across the famous river Liffey next season and will play their home games at Home Farm's Tolka Park.

The Reds have used the Harolds Cross Greyhound Stadium for the past two seasons, but they feel Tolka (where they played before the move) offers a better atmosphere.

CHAMPIONS CAMBRIDGE



NEWCASTLE have had four 'keepers on their books this season, all of whom were signed from clubs in lower grades of football: Iam McFaul (Linfield), Mike Mahoney (Torquay), Roger Jones (Blackburn) and Steve Hardwick (Chesterfield).

GLENNAVON boss Alan Campbell has been named Northern Ireland's Manager of the Year for 1976-77.

Frank McLintock may be staying with Queens Park Rangers in a coaching capacity.

Comeback attempt ends in pain

CRYSTAL PALACE midfield man Martin Hinshelwood suffered a bitter blow recently, when he finally accepted his career was over.

Hinshelwood, at 23 one of the game's nice guys, has been forced to quit with serious knee trouble.

It started last season — right after Palace had won at Sunderland to reach the Semi-Finals of the F.A. Cup.

In the very next game, against Port Vale, Hinshelwood suffered cartilage damage and had an operation.

Several brave attempts at a comeback ended in pain and failure and he finally had to accept his playing days were over when specialists told him there was now a growth on the ligaments.

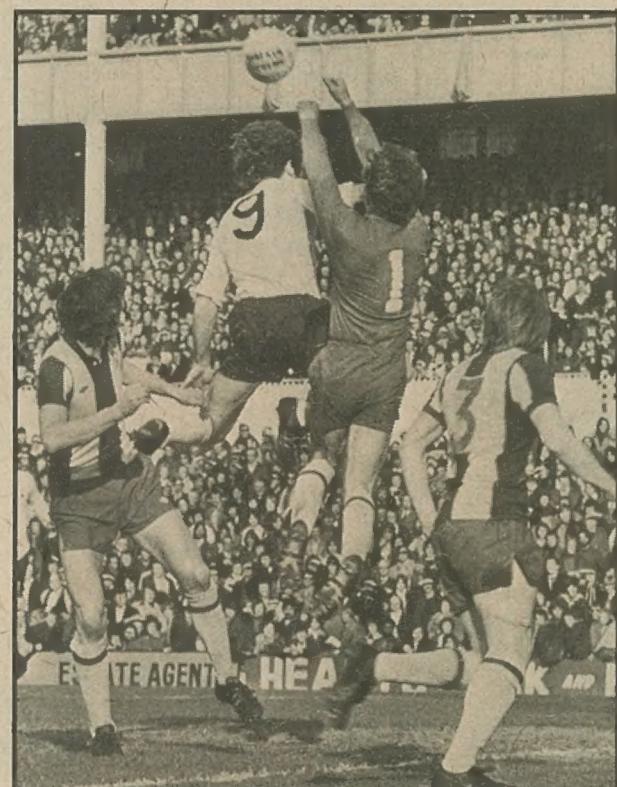
Martin will stay at Selhurst Park to help out with the coaching and watch the progress of younger brother Paul — now playing superbly at right-back.

DERBY'S 'disaster area'

THE DERBY COUNTY pitch, which underwent a near-£40,000 face-lift two years ago, is to be re-laid again.

After The Rams won the League title in 1975, the once notorious Baseball Ground mud heap was transformed into a fine playing surface.

But once again the pitch, built on sand and peat, has deteriorated. One visiting manager described it as: "A disaster area."



Time changes for Godden

A NEW name on the First Division team sheets in recent weeks is that of 'keeper Tony Godden of West Brom.

He was a complete unknown when pushed into the Albion first team against Spurs (above), but has impressed in the games he has played in the senior side.

Tony, however, admits he was a little surprised by his promotion.

"Johnny Giles signed me from Ashford Town at the start of last season," said he. "At the beginning of this term he loaned me to

Preston.

"He made it quite clear I was still very much a part of West Bromwich Albion's plans and I was being sent to Deepdale for experience.

"While at Preston I was helped a great deal by their former Eire international 'keeper Alan Kelly, who is now coach at Deepdale. Now I've found myself playing at such places as White Hart Lane and Old Trafford. Times do change . . ."

They certainly do, and in Tony's case for the better.



DESERVED MORE SUPPORT

CAN Cambridge United hang on to manager Ron Atkinson and the crop of fine young players who carried them to the Fourth Division Championship this season?

That's a question many people in football are asking after the most successful season in the club's League history.

Cambridge led the Division for most of the season

and were clearly a class above anything else around.

Players like Steve Fallon, Steve Spriggs and Alan Biley have been under constant review by bigger clubs. And Atkinson, after less than two years at the club, has marked himself down as one of the brightest young managers in the game.

If these people are lured elsewhere the public of

Cambridge will have no right to complain. For their support during the team's great run of success was little more than pathetic.

It was a cause for celebration if more than 4,000 turned up at the Abbey Stadium when the football being played deserved twice that number.

*Pic shows Alan Biley in action v Aldershot when only 4,502 turned up.

PAT JENNINGS...

If Pat Jennings plays in all three British Championship games, v. England, Scotland and Wales, he will equal Danny Blanchflower's 37-cap appearance record for an Irish player in the British Championship.

Already Ireland's most-capped international, with more than 60 full appearances, Jennings could also soon overtake Gordon Banks' 73-cap all-time total for a British goalkeeper.

and DANNY BLANCHFLOWER

Current Northern Ireland boss Danny Blanchflower captained his country to a memorable 3-2 Wembley win over England, in November, 1957.

In that 1957-58 campaign, Danny led Ireland to a share of the British Championship and a Quarter-Final place in the 1958 World Cup, in Sweden, and picked up the first of his two Footballer of the Year awards, the second coming three years later, in 1960-61, when he skippered Spurs to the first League and Cup double this century.

LEEDS FAN CLUB IN EIRE

ENGLAND STAR Trevor Cherry is president of the Irish branch of the Leeds United Supporters' Club. Gordon McQueen is vice-president.

Any Leeds fans in Eire wishing to join the club can do so by writing to Secretary Malcolm Farrell, 271 St. Finians Park, Drogheda, Co. Louth. Membership 50p under 16, £1 for adults.

● Please don't forget to enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

COWDENBEATH have started rebuilding for next season with the signing of former Scotland and Aberdeen 'keeper Ernie McGarr, from East Fife.

SCOTLAND are in demand around the world. The SFA have had to turn down invitations to play in France, Israel and Uruguay over the past few months due to congestion of fixtures.

In the black

MONTROSE, one of the smallest clubs in Scottish football, raised a few eyebrows when they announced their latest balance sheet.

Last season the Angus club showed a profit of £16,000 and currently are in the black to the tune of £90,000.

To make sure they stay that way their newest director is the local bank manager.

FAMILY man Jimmy Rimmer, the Arsenal and former England 'keeper, has an extra safe pair of hands for his baby daughter Katie. Standing by in case he should drop her is three-year-old daughter Kelly.



MIDLANDS' BEST

John Deehan (left), Trevor Francis (centre) and Ken Stroud show off the silverware they collected at the Midland Soccer Writers' annual presentation recently.

Trevor was voted the Midland Player of the Season. Trevor has been in brilliant form this term and deservedly won his first full cap for England against Holland in February.

Aston Villa's Deehan collected the Young Player of the Season award. He and Gray struck up a deadly striking combination and helped their club win the League Cup.

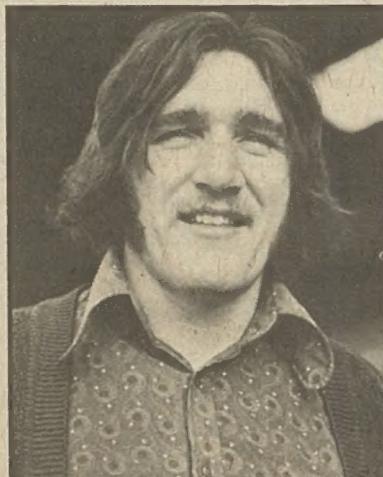
The Best Goal of the Season, seen on ATV, award was given to Ken Stroud after his spectacular effort for Swindon Town against Everton in the F.A. Cup earlier this season.

ENGLAND should stick to wingers as they prepare for World Cup games.

That is the view of one of their finest-ever international players Roger Hunt, the former Liverpool striker who earned a World Cup winner's medal in 1966.

He says: "When we play Italy at Wembley in the crunch game it will be suicide just sending two attackers against them. We have to go down the wings to beat them and give our central-strikers a chance."

Gordon Hill and Steve Coppell of Manchester United, for instance?



ASTON VILLA'S News and Record has been voted Programme of the Year. This is the fourth time in seven years the programme has filled top spot.

DUBLINER Terry Flanagan (left) was the two goal hero when Dundalk beat Limerick 2-0 to win the F.A.I. Cup for the first time since 1958 and the fifth time in all.

It crowned a fourth fantastic season for Flanagan, who didn't play League football until he was 23. Then, signed by Bohemians, he finished joint leading scorer in the League with 18 goals in the 73-74 season.

The following term he helped Bohemians to the League title. After a dispute with the Dublin club he was transferred to Dundalk and helped them to the League title in

Tommy's testimonial

● After several postponements, Tommy Smith has finally been able to name the date of his testimonial.

The Liverpool defender is assured of a bumper gate at Anfield as The Reds take on a Bobby Charlton XI, on Friday, May 27th.

YOUNG LINCOLN

AMBITION LINCOLN, who made a bold bid for promotion from the Third Division this season after coming straight up from the Fourth, certainly don't mind giving youth its fling.

But, then, perhaps that is understandable because manager Graham Taylor is only 32.

Lincoln have fielded two 17-year-olds — Glenn Cockerill and Brendan Guest — in the same Third Division side this season — and what a competent couple of lads they are, too.

Striker Cockerill comes from good stock. His dad is the former Huddersfield and Grimsby defender Ron Cockerill.

Right-back Guest is an England Youth international.

SCOTTISH First Division Champions St. Mirren are also health Champions ... for none of their team smokes.

"That helped the side maintain peak fitness," said manager Alex Ferguson.

Meanwhile, Saints have scrapped plans for a close season tour of South America. Instead they will make an eight day trip to Gibraltar during which they will play Notts County.

The last time the two clubs met was in 1923 in Barcelona when Saints won the Barcelona Cup.

TOP SOCCER ON AUSSIE TV

"THE BIG MATCH" director Bob Gerdam (below) recently returned from a five week trip to Melbourne and Sydney where he helped to launch Australian soccer on TV.

"I went out to advise and assist," said Bob. "Not teach."

Already London Weekend TV's "The Big Match" is seen in Australia and many other countries in the world.

Now the Australian National TV Network Channel 0-10 hopes to rival LWT's programme with their own "Philips Top Soccer".

Did Bob learn anything from his hosts?

"Yes. First they used five cameras, one more than I do on the Big Match," he said. "And I was pleasantly surprised by the splendid co-operation between the League and TV."

"For example. Cameras were allowed in dressing-rooms before matches helping to capture the atmosphere."

"This is something I've been trying to do since 1962."



1975-76 and now the Cup!

Dundalk's Cup success was also a personal triumph for player-manager Jim McLaughlin, the former Northern Ireland international. In two seasons with the club he has now captured the two major trophies.

Sub Sean Sheehy shares Flanagan's record of success in the past three seasons as he was also at Bohemians and moved to Dundalk at the same time as Flanagan.

A crowd of 17,000 watched Dundalk's triumph.

GOAL-LINES

Send your letters to STEVE CARTER, GOAL-LINES, SHOOT!, IPC Magazines Ltd., King's Reach Tower, Stamford St. London, SE1 9LS. £3 for the Star letter — £1.50 for every other letter published.

When writing to us please mention the two features you liked best in the latest issue of SHOOT!

This week's Star Letter comes from I. Crooks of Crookstown, who wins our special prize of £3. He writes:

DISGRACEFUL ATTITUDE

DURING a League game I saw on T.V. between Newcastle United and Leicester City, I noticed United's fans' attitude towards one of the City players.

He was a young black lad called Winston White and every time he touched the ball he was booed and jeered.

The only reason was his colour and as a result of this barracking he became nervous and made mistakes.

This was disgraceful action by the Newcastle supporters who are supposed to be among the best in England.

• I'm afraid this is something black players have to put up with. They're having the last laugh, though . . . many are breaking through and answering barrackers in the best way: with their skill.

Cloggers

FOLLOWING cricket's idea of having the best players in the world in a "circus", I suggest this is taken up by football.

How about getting the 22 best cloggers in the League to play a series of games?

Then, when they've kicked lumps out of each other, they won't be in any fit state to return to the League.

LESLIE ELEY,
ERITH.

• I suppose they'd be called the "Clogs of War".



Selfish

HOW selfish of Franz Beckenbauer to leave Bayern Munich for The Cosmos in America.

Money isn't everything and I think Beckenbauer may regret his decision.

KEITH TURNERY,
IPSWICH.

• Beckenbauer will be paid £1½ million for three years with The Cosmos, the sort of offer NOBODY could refuse.

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ADD 25p TOWARDS POST & PACKING (U.K.)

No callers. Send SAE for lists.

R. A. SAVAGE (S.)
131 Torrington Park, London N12 9AG

Puzzled

MANY people must be puzzled, as I am, to hear SHOOT being given the title of a boys' paper.

With all the information contained in each issue, plus the comments from all the top people in soccer, it is hard to imagine a more mature publication.

So let's shoot that kids' stuff down in flames.

BRIAN MINNIS,
COATBRIDGE.

• We've never had any age barriers at SHOOT. We receive letters from people aged from eight to 80. The magazine definitely appeals to fans of all ages.

Autographs

I HAVE, for the past four years, been collecting the autographs of England's international footballers capped since the War.

I need just six to complete the set: Frank Swift, Tommy Taylor and Duncan Edwards, so tragically killed in the Munich Air Disaster; Tony Kay, Ray Wood and Edwin Holiday who, it would appear, have disappeared from the soccer scene completely.

May I respectfully request that if any SHOOT reader could help me out, I'd be most grateful.

I will gladly pay for, exchange or donate to charity for any genuine autograph of the missing six I receive.

As a token of gratitude, I will gladly give £1 to the Houseman/Gillam fund for every signature received free. Following the death of Peter Houseman, this is the least I can do.

JOHN FEAST,
23 HIGSON STREET,
BLACKBURN.

Jinx

"DON'T Buy Peter Taylor" — warned reader David Ward in your June 12th issue last year.

David pointed out that when ex-Southend United players move into the top flight, they bring bad luck to their new side.

After Spurs' fate this season, the jinx seems to linger on.

IAN GREW,
KEIGHLEY.

• I don't believe in superstition. Next season Taylor could help take Spurs straight back to the top and I hope he does!

Progress

IT HASN'T been a good season overall for London, but fans have tended to overlook the progress made by Millwall and Charlton Athletic.

Both had satisfying seasons in Division Two and both have thumped promoted Chelsea.

Millwall may not have big star names. However, they did extremely well, especially away from home.

Charlton sold Derek Hales, yet have shown no sign of missing him.

I expect to see both these South London sides taking on teams like Ipswich and Newcastle soon — and winning.

SEAN BRENNAN,
LIVERPOOL.

• Next season's Second Division promises to see a rare old battle in London. Neither Millwall nor Charlton are far away from being real promotion material.

Same Name

I WAS watching the television when I heard Notts County had beaten Southampton with Steve Carter scoring one of the County goals.

Is this you?

STEPHEN DEACON,
ELTHAM.



• I was wondering when someone would ask me this. I'm glad to see my namesake (above) doing well — he's a really good player and I expect soon you'll be reading about the other Steve Carter in SHOOT.

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THE only Home country to reach the Quarter-Finals of last season's European Championship; a recent 3-0 trouncing of European Champions Czechoslovakia . . . now can Wales achieve an ambition by becoming the "Best of British"?

That will be the target of manager Mike Smith and his fiery, talented squad in the British Championship. Their last outright six-points-from-six victory was in the 1937-38 season — but they have shared the title several times and are now threatening a genuine breakthrough.

The great change in Welsh international football has been the regime of Smith and his methods of immense professionalism. The players have responded with total commitment. Now they have the surging confidence of that marvellous win over the Czechs.

"That victory could not have come at a better moment," says Smith. "The lads were always confident they could play well: now they go into the Championship having proved it.

"My job as manager has been to equate one performance against the other. In those terms, I felt we were unfortunate to go down to West Germany in Cardiff by 2-0 and then by an own goal to the Scots at Hampden Park in our first World Cup game.

"The Press and public did not see it that way. They saw those two defeats in terms of us playing well except where it counted — in scoring goals.

"I believed, in pure football technique, we played just as effectively as we performed against the Czechs . . . and that the goals must come. That is what happened at Wrexham in our last game.

"There has been a great levelling up in the four British sides. The Championship is no longer the cut-and-dried England-Scotland monopoly as before. On the opening day, for instance, England will not find it easy against Northern Ireland in Belfast."

On that same day on the other side of the Irish Sea, Wales will be taking on Scotland. They lost that first World Cup game with Ian Evans' agonising "own goal" and seek to establish themselves in the driving seat before the second game (at Ninian Park) later this year.

"It will be a dress rehearsal for the biggest game the two countries have ever played against each other," stresses Smith. "It stands on its own."

Then to Wembley. There is a glazed look that crosses the eyes of every Welshman when it comes

to football combat against England — either in soccer or rugby. "When everything is said and done, there is always one result that every Welshman wants more than any other," admits the English-born Smith. "To beat England."

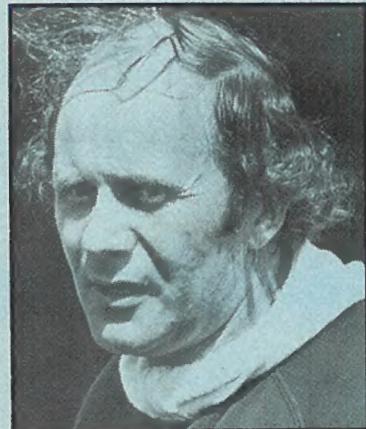
It is something Wales have never achieved at Wembley. In their last four visits there, they have battled out three draws (one in the 1973 World Cup) and all of Welsh football fervently believes that THIS is the moment.

"We had a moral victory there two years ago in a 2-2 draw and outplayed them for so long at Cardiff last year before going down by the only goal," assesses Smith. "But what we want is victory pure and simple!"

Finally to Windsor Park, Belfast. It is a trip Smith regards slightly uneasily. "Flying in and out the same day means players are

'THE ONE RESULT EVERY WELSHMAN WANTS'

Mike Smith-Wales manager



cramped in seats instead of stretching their legs and relaxing before playing a game of international football.

"Yet it is a decision for the good of football and one that is deserved by every follower of the game in Ireland. On our part the verdict was unanimous: 'Every player wants to be there.'"

The result apart, the one positive bonus for Wales in beating the Czechs was they managed to score three goals without John Toshack. "We have shown we can do it with or without 'Tosh,'" emphasises Smith. "We will miss him, but the way Nick Deacy performed must have been a revelation to many people — but not to me because I knew he was that good."

The same epic 90 minutes provided a brilliant debut, too, for Cardiff's Peter Sayer and an electrifying return to form by Leighton James. "When you see Leighton competing like that, you realise more than ever the marvellous skill that the man has."

Middlesbrough goalkeeper Jim Platt, who is in the Northern Ireland squad for the British Championship this week, issues a warning to the other three Home countries — it is:

'DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE US'

IN spite of his country's decisive 5-0 defeat by West Germany in a "friendly", Jim points to Northern Ireland's performances against Holland and Belgium as proof his colleagues have every reason to be confident for the testing matches that lie ahead.

He says: "Remember Holland and Belgium are world-class sides, and we made them go all the way. We drew 2-2 with Holland, and were narrowly beaten against Belgium — so our players are in the right frame of mind to take on England, Scotland and Wales.

"Also, two of our matches are at home, in Belfast, against England and Wales. With our supporters cheering on, we have all the incentive we need.

"When it comes to incentive, and motivation, the Northern Ireland manager Danny Blanchflower, has really boosted our morale. He keeps telling us we are honoured to be playing for our country, and appeals to our pride.

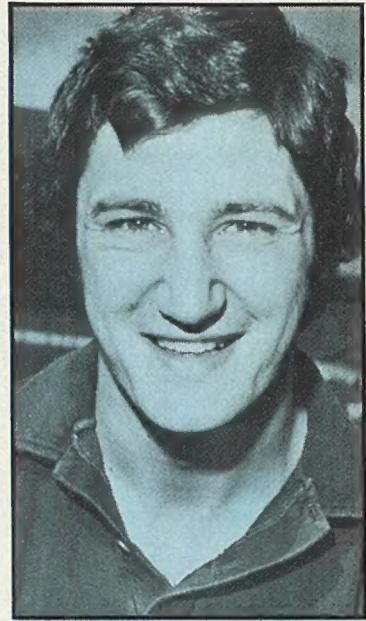
"Then there is his philosophy about attacking football, which I favour over a more negative approach, and which we hope will pay dividends when we meet England in our first game on Saturday.

"Although England have come in for a fair share of criticism in past months, I think they will be strong opposition for the other sides in the Championship.

"Scotland, with their changing-over of managers, will probably be going through an unsettled phase, but I believe Wales will be playing with some confidence."

For Platt, the opportunity to turn out for Northern Ireland would mean a rewarding ending for the Middlesbrough 'keeper to a season which has not been his happiest at Ayresome.

"I was out of the side for a spell, and I did not always see eye to eye



with Jack Charlton on tactics. But it is an ambition of mine to win plenty of full caps and I would relish the chance of proving myself at international level — so far, I have only one cap, for the time when I appeared for part of the game against Israel.

"Though I'm certainly not counting my chickens, because football is an unpredictable game and anything can happen. For a long time, with Pat Jennings in such brilliant form, I've accepted the fact getting into the Northern Ireland team would not be easy.

"And when I was not included in Middlesbrough's team I was often fed-up, and at the moment I can only wait and see what the future holds for me on Teesside under a new manager following the departure of Jack Charlton."

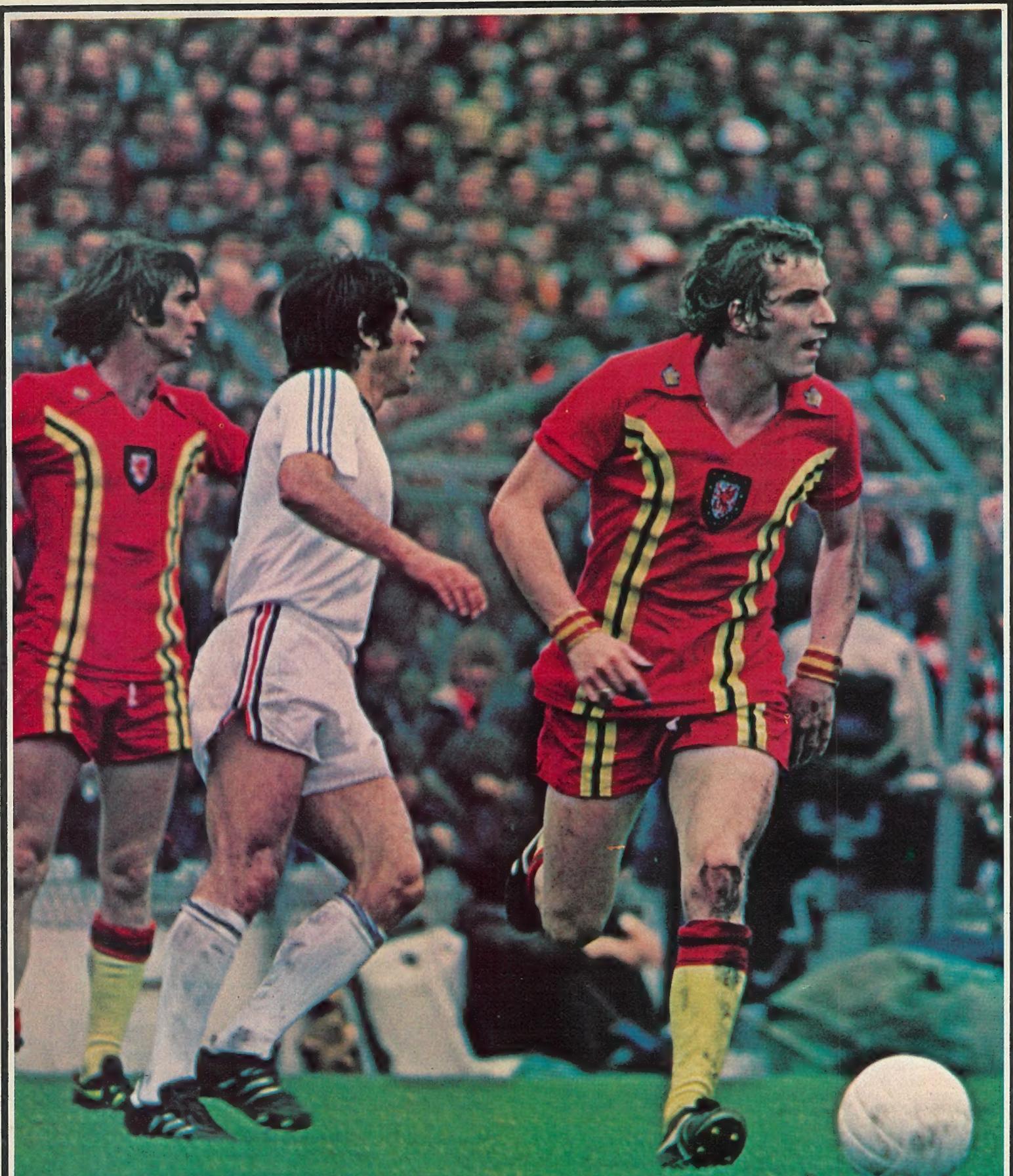
So the next few weeks could bring about changes for Jim Platt in his club and international career. And in spite of the fact the importance of the Championship is being freely questioned, to the Middlesbrough goalkeeper and others on the fringe of national honours the tournament is a possible proving ground.

It is also the setting for the imaginative Blanchflower to impress his ideas and approach to football on a side struggling to gain recognition. Platt is one who forecasts that Northern Ireland can only benefit from the leadership of their team-manager.

Jim sums up: "Danny Blanchflower possesses the will-to-win spirit which he is trying to instil in us — and I reckon he'll succeed in doing so and give our national side a much brighter future, starting in this Championship."



Chris McGrath (left) scores Northern Ireland's first goal during their 2-2 World Cup draw against Holland.



JOHN MAHONEY

Stoke City and Wales



BRUCE RIOCH
Everton and Scotland

WILLIE ORMOND'S 'MYSTERY' MOVE

Happy days...
Ormond is carried
shoulder high by his
players after
Scotland had
secured a place in
the 1974 World Cup
Finals.



WHY would a manager leave a fairly successful international side to join a struggling club outfit which has just been relegated? That is the question everyone was asking recently when Willie Ormond quit as boss of the Scotland side to take over Hearts.

At first it looks like a strange move, but, taking a closer look, there is a lot of sense behind Ormond's decision. The main reason he left the international set-up was for security.

He had heard the rumours that were constantly in circulation about him getting the sack. He knew, too, about the move two seasons ago to have him replaced after the failure to clinch a place in the European Championships.

When Scotland could only manage a 1-1 draw with Rumania in Bucharest and therefore blew any chances they had of qualifying there were stories flying round. Ormond was heading for the axe — and, make no mistake, there was a lot of truth behind those tales.

With that knowledge Ormond must have realised his chances of remaining in a job had Scotland failed for the World Cup Finals were fairly remote. It's impossible to look into the future to see whether or not this would have come true, but it is certain the odds would have been stacked against Ormond.

There are other reasons for him leaving the international arena. Ormond knows he will have a better opportunity to spend time with his family while being boss of Hearts.

This is important to the former Hibs star. Obviously he prefers

making a trip to, say, Montrose rather than Argentina!

Finance came into it, too, of course. He has signed a four-year contract with the Tynecastle club, who were relegated at the end of the season for the first time in their 103-year history.

Ormond is now likely to be on £10,000-per-year ... and that is £2,000 more than he received while being Scotland's team-manager.

"A lot of figures have been thrown about what I'm getting from Hearts, but finance was not the prime motive in moving," says Ormond.

"I have a good, secure contract with Hearts, I will spend my leisure time at home and, probably most important to me, I will be working at the job every day of the week. As international boss I missed the day-by-day involvement in the game.

"In my four years-plus as manager I never had a better pool of players than I have just given up. We were duplicated in so many positions I could have put out two teams, and the first choice were by no means certain to beat the second."

Ormond's move came as a shock to the Scottish fans with whom he always got on well. He leaves with a big "thank you" to every one of them who gave him great encouragement throughout.

"Now my main concern is to get Hearts back into the Premier Division as soon as possible," adds Ormond. "Hearts are far too big a club to be outside the elite. I'm confident we will be back in a season."

Ormond was rated Scotland's



Willie Gibson of Hearts in action against Partick Thistle.

most successful international manager — he had more wins to his credit than anyone else — but still a lot of critics are unconvinced about his ability.

A former St. Johnstone player who was at Perth at the same time Ormond guided them into Europe says: "There can be no doubt Willie Ormond is a good coach. He always impressed me as a coach, but I was never too sure about him as team-manager.

"Certainly he did a good job at Muirton with The Saints, but he always struck me as being too friendly, too nice. He is a good fellow, but sometimes I think you have got to be ruthless as a manager in this game. You can't afford to get too involved with the players and their personalities.

"Other managers in the past

have done this — and paid for it. I wish Willie all the very best at Tynecastle and I'll be interested to see how he gets on."

The international strain has now been lifted from the shoulders of Ormond, who still stays in the council house in Musselburgh he had before getting the Scottish job.

The international at Wembley on Saturday (June 4th) when England and Scotland go into battle again will get the adrenalin flowing in everyone even remotely connected with the game, but there will be one Scottish fan who will be able to relax and enjoy the game ... that will be Willie Ormond.

Something he hasn't been able to do for over four years!

Ireland beware—

ARCHIE'S BACK IN BUSINESS!



A FEW months ago, Archie Gemmill's future looked very dim. A clash of heads during a game for Derby County left the 30-year-old midfielder with a fractured skull. The worst was feared... but Archie is a fighter. He's fought his way to the top and isn't going to give up this position without a fight. It is more than a coincidence that his return saw a dramatic improvement in Derby's form. Now, Gemmill will surely add to his 15 Scottish caps as he helps his country defend the British Championship. The Scots won all three games last year, and Gemmill was brilliant. Wee Archie may not score many goals, but he made his presence felt against Northern Ireland last year with this cracking left foot shot that left Pat Jennings helpless. When the two countries meet again at Hampden Park on June 1st, The Irish had better beware!

THE last few months have been unbelievable. Everything that has happened to me at Ipswich has been better than I expected, apart from the fact we fell away late in the season."

The speaker was Paul Mariner, the Ipswich striker who joined the Portman Road club last October from Plymouth Argyle, and brilliantly made the transition from Second to First Division football.

Also, in 1977-78, Paul will be able to realise one of his personal ambitions, to have the opportunity of sampling European football.

And he says: "Next season Ipswich will be in the U.E.F.A. Cup, which is very satisfying to me at the end of my first term with the club. Then there was something I had not anticipated, playing for England, especially when all I planned to do when I left Plymouth was to win a regular first team place with Ipswich.

"But there was the disappointment of not winning the League Championship after we were such strong challengers at one stage.

"And without making excuses, I think it is fair to say injuries weakened our chances.

"If we had been able to regularly field our full-strength team things would have been different — though this is not meant as a criticism of any of our reserve players.

"The crucial period which ended our hopes came in the match against West Brom when we lost 4-0 in midweek, followed by the 1-0 defeat by Sunderland with a weakened side.

'IN FOOTBALL YOU'RE ALWAYS LEARNING'

Paul Mariner (Ipswich)



"In the Sunderland game I realised just how valuable the support they receive from their fans. I've never heard anything like it, and the Roker Park roar must do wonders for Sunderland's morale."

But for the Ipswich supporters, the elimination of their title dreams for the second successive season can only be frustrating, and the question must arise whether they cherish hopes that next term could be a case of third time lucky for their team. And taking the player's view, Mariner is optimistic.

"We are a young side who will benefit from the experience of the past year," predicts Paul.

"Next season we can improve on past performances and finish higher in the table — in football you are always learning, even if you aren't aware of it.

"I've never been actually conscious of picking up anything new, but I'm sure I have since I started my career. And at Plymouth, for example, I benefited from my partnership with Billy

Rafferty — each of us did his share in taking some of the weight off the other.

"Here at Ipswich I've received assistance from everyone, the crowd has been good to me, and I've never been made to feel that I am under great pressure. For this I can thank our manager, Mr Robson, and the players."

But Mariner has also made his own valuable contribution at Portman Road, where with Clive Woods and Trevor Whymark alongside him, he has made the attack one of the most talented in the First Division.

So, it is not surprising that in spite of slipping up at vital periods in their last two title bids Ipswich Town still get Paul's vote for 1977-78.

"Everything points to us being Championship contenders again. We are a team without any real weaknesses and although I am against over-confidence we made the sort of running that earned us respect as a side that was going places."

"And next term I think we will — if so, I may fulfil another ambition — to win a League Championship medal."

'DON'T THINK YOUR TEAM IS SUPERIOR'

Brian Flynn (Burnley)



RELEGATION from the First has certainly been a disaster for us — we've even struggled to stay in the Second Division. And I wouldn't be surprised to see some of the demoted sides this year do just the same next season.

The fact of the matter is this — Second Division life is very hard. And any player that comes down thinking it's just a case of making up the numbers before being promoted, is whistling in the dark.

We've found that only too clearly. It's easy to do. You think at the start of the next season "Well, maybe it wasn't such a disaster getting relegated. We'll be much better than the teams in this Division and we're bound to go straight back up again." It's a fatal mistake. You think you'll beat teams because you've got better players and far more skill. You may have but that isn't all you need in the Second.

I believe it takes every team a year to adjust. Maybe Manchester United and Wolves were exceptions to that rule, but I still think it's very difficult to go straight back up.

In your first year down, you soon find it's no cakewalk. I don't know why it is but teams still tend to regard you as a First Division side — and they raise their game when they meet you. You end up with having to play a Cup Final every match — and trying to win 42 Cup Finals was never too easy!

Every side seems to play better against you when you first go down. That's a fact of life so hard to overcome.

I wouldn't say we were



depressed at the start of the new season after relegation. You're keen to get back to football again but if you don't watch it, it can become a bit of a nightmare as this season has been for us.

My advice to players who are in relegated clubs this term is clear and simple — "Don't think your team is better than the others already in Division Two." It probably isn't. And remember, the sides know all about the game down there, all the ins and outs.

Millwall's John Seasman (second right) scores against Burnley at Turf Moor.

New sides don't and it takes a year to adjust.

You've got to fight as hard as them and really knuckle down. You don't have to kick your way out as some people say, but you do have to work extremely hard, and not be big-headed.

Four players who've suffered the agonies of demotion and playing at a lower level, give their . . .

'CAN BE A BLESSING IN DISGUISE'
Peter Bonetti (Chelsea)

YOUR initial reaction to relegation is one of regret and disappointment. But once you overcome those feelings and start getting going again the next season, it is not so bad. You get back in the swing of things, and it isn't necessarily the disaster everyone forecast.

I firmly believe in the case of a side like Spurs, it is a blessing in disguise — it was the best thing that could have happened. I would put money on Spurs coming straight back up next year because

I think they have enough good players, especially youngsters, to get sorted out in the Second and bounce back.

The youngsters in any side need to have the pressure taken off them a bit — and if you are relegated, that's precisely what

Steve Finnieston (number nine) hammers in another goal for Chelsea, this time against Nottingham Forest, to secure two more valuable promotion points for the Stamford Bridge club.



Advice to the



happens. It certainly did in our case. We were relegated and we had youngsters just coming through into the side.

All right, it took us two seasons to go back up, but in that time you could see those youngsters getting better and better with every game. And the same can happen to any side relegated.

It's a very old cliché, although I'm sure it's true — it's better to be winning at the top of the Second than always losing near the bottom of the First. You get more time to express yourselves and experiment without fear. Youngsters don't want to try things when they're playing against Liverpool — but they will if they're against a side like Notts County or Hull City. It's understandable.

Of course, financially it's not so good for a club, and any side being relegated this year will find problems in that direction. But if you get the confidence, skill and success coming back into the side, there are many people who would say it is worth it for the loss of the additional revenue.

I think the hardest thing to adjust to is accepting the fact you've gone down. That is terrible. You're no longer in the public eye

as much as you were and you're in the lower Division.

You must have that right approach to go up again. And you've got to have it against even the lower sides. It's no good playing well and getting terrific results when you meet the best teams. It's the side that does well against the best teams and also the worst sides that has proved it is consistent enough to go up.

I don't agree with people who say you've got to kick your way up from the lower Divisions. You must stick to your principles and play your way out of trouble.

'ATTITUDE MUST BE RIGHT'

Mel Blyth (Southampton)

I KNOW all about relegation — it happened to me twice in successive years with Crystal Palace. The first time was bad enough when we dropped from the First to the Second. I thought that was the end of the world. But when we fell through the next trapdoor as well and ended up in Division Three, that was just about it.

Why did we go straight through? The reason for that might be a good piece of advice for other sides coming down this season to lower Divisions and especially the First to the Second. It was basically down to the players — our attitude wasn't right.

I remember the night we lost our place in the top flight. It was at Norwich and it was a terrible experience. But our new chairman Ray Bloye opened champagne to celebrate the start of a "new" Crystal Palace. We all thought we'd be back the following season — and that was where our problems lay. We couldn't change our views, even when things started going wrong in Division Two.

I reckon the lower you go the harder it is to get out of that



Division. Palace have found that in the last few years since they went into the Third. When we went into Division Two, we found it so hard to adapt.

The reason was that we had people who were used to playing in the First and doing all the nice, pretty stuff. That's fine in the First — just what you want up there. But it's no good in Division Two — you must have bread and butter players there who get stuck in.



Crystal Palace (striped shirts) during their First Division days in 1972-73. Mel Blyth suffered two consecutive relegation seasons with Palace.

You've got to get the attitude right from the start and go out there with blinkers on. Never look up or deviate from your hard work. If you do and you stop to look and think about the empty terraces and the lack of First Division atmosphere, you've had it. That was what we did.

I played at Halifax when we'd dropped into the Third — in front of 1800 fans. It was murder, sheer hell. I think it's more a mental than a physical problem you face when you go down — basically, on all round ability, you're probably better than them. But that's not all the story.

Everything is very tight in the Second Division and your players must be ideally suited to the football played there. In many ways, it's unlike any other Division.

Relegation is a disaster as far as almost any club goes — and it certainly is for the players. Who wants to drop his standards? But it's the side that gets down to sheer slogging and never stops to think about the glamour, that will get out of it soonest. Sit around thinking that you'll be back with the Manchester Uniteds, Liverpools and Leeds the next season, and you'll probably end up with the Walsalls, Chesters and Port Vale.

Your attitude must be right — that's most important.

RELEGATED

'GIVE YOUNGSTERS A CHANCE'

John Faulkner (Luton Town)

WHEN the big clubs come down they're obviously despondent. I know we were — it was bad enough for us. But I guess it's even worse for the greats like Manchester United and Spurs.

Maybe all the players don't think that way but the boards and the spectators certainly tend to. I still maintain it is a beneficial thing for a side that has been struggling for three years like Tottenham.

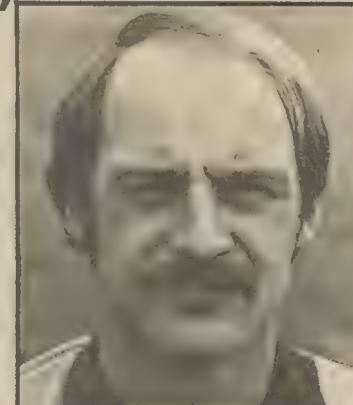
They have now put themselves out of their agony. And they're big enough to come back. I reckon it's almost better to be re-building in the Second and getting a new base than continually just scraping a living in the First. There really isn't much point in that year after year.

We dropped two seasons ago. And only our financial crisis prevented us returning. We had to sell the players who could have got us promotion. It was demoralising to start with but we soon picked up the threads again.

Sides coming down to any lower Division should really take the opportunity to give youngsters a chance, weed out the players who obviously aren't quite good



Paul Futcher, Luton's highly-rated young defender, is hoping the club regain their First Division status next year.



enough and re-build for a brighter future. And if any side does that, if and when it goes back to the higher strata, it will have a team good enough to stay there and do well — not just survive like so many do.

The pressure is definitely off you when you drop down a Division. I know people might say the big clubs are expected to go straight back up. But there definitely isn't the same sort of pressure, no matter who you play, as there is in the First with sides like Liverpool, Leeds, Manchester City and Arsenal around. They provide real

pressure.

There will always be a better chance for the youngsters if a side goes down. The big teams are too scared to try many youngsters while they're still in the First. If you're in trouble in there, you tend to stay with even more experienced, older players who know the ropes. But that isn't necessarily a better thing for the club, in the long term.

The worst time if you're relegated is the close season — that really is demoralising. But I'd say to those clubs coming down for next season — "Get stuck into training and then the matches as soon as possible and that will make you forget your blues." When you get to the start of any new season, the enthusiasm is there and you think you're going to do well.

The biggest differences? Undoubtedly the smaller crowds, especially if you're dropping from the First to the Second. The crowds really are smaller and the atmosphere isn't as good. On the other hand, that shouldn't affect your footballing attitude, your passes and your shots at goal. If you're professional enough, you won't let it trouble your game from a technical point of view.

THE LAST-GASP SPECIALISTS

YOU won't find many people in the seaside resort of Ayr with long fingernails. Those citizens, described by Scots bard Robert Burns as "Honest men and bonnie lasses", who have any interest in the fortunes of their local football team will have chewed their fingernails down to the bone years ago.

The reason is Ayr United have

MacAnespie. We have a staff of around 30 players now which is as big and talented as any in the Premier Division."

Alex also has plans to avoid the problems associated with any part-time club trying to compete with full-timers.

"There's no chance Ayr will go



WALKER McCALL

become the last-gasp specialists of Scottish football. The long running suspense story of the last decade has been how close a shave United will have in their campaign to avoid relegation from the top Scottish Division.

In 1975/76 they missed the drop by a single point. The year before when the Scottish League was reconstructed and six teams went down, the Somerset Park men were only three points clear.

In fact, since being promoted in 1969, Ayr have only been comfortably clear of the relegation battle twice. In 1972-73 and 1973-74 they made sixth and seventh positions respectively.

Nevertheless, having remained in the top flight for eight seasons Ayr have equalled their longest stay upstairs since the War.

The fact his team has survived again is pleasing to manager Alex Stuart. "It's been good to prove so many people wrong who wrote us off at the start of the season."

However, Alex, in his second year as manager and his first as full-time boss, is not content with mere survival season after season. He has ambitions for the club.

His plans are to consolidate on the improvement shown in the latter half of the season when his team surprised everyone by piling up a run of ten games without defeat, including away victories at Dundee United and Aberdeen.

Alex Stuart wants to continue the move away from the "strugglers' position" at the foot of the Premier Division.

"During the season we did a lot to strengthen the playing pool. We signed Jim Brogan from Coventry, Brian Rodman from Kilmarnock and Walker McCall from Aberdeen.

"Walker put away 17 goals for us which have been crucial in avoiding relegation. And we brought in Danny Masterton, signed Andy Geoghegan and brought back Alex

full-time. But I would like to try to organise a full day at the ground every week as well as the twice weekly evening training sessions."

Alex Stuart faced quite a challenge when he moved from Montrose to succeed the charismatic Ally MacLeod at Ayr in November, 1975, when MacLeod moved on to Aberdeen. Since then he has won a great deal of respect for his work at Ayr and in March was awarded the Mackinlay's Personality of the Month award.

Modestly he passes the praise to his players. "You hear people talking about the influence of managers but when it comes down to it, it's the players on the park that win, draw or lose. Any awards I get are just recognition of the way the Ayr boys worked hard."

Alex feels his players' job is made no easier in the present league structure. "If you're not in one of the four teams challenging for the title you are in one of the six that are fighting against relegation. I'm in favour of increasing the number of clubs in the Premier to 12 to take some of the desperation out of the majority of fixtures."

Whether it's a ten club Division, or 12, or however many, Alex Stuart intends to keep The Honest Men in the top flight. And, as one of the group of go ahead young managers taking over Scottish clubs, his continued success can only be for the good of football.

'BRING IN'

my soccer scene

GORDON HILL

ABOLISH the British Championship... It's no longer an important event in our soccer calendar... Just another strain on top players after a long, hard season... Apart from the England/Scotland fixture the games are meaningless!

Those are some of the critics' views of our four-nation tournament which starts this weekend (May 28th).

Needless to say, I don't agree with them — nor do the majority of players I've spoken to.

The British Championship is part of our soccer tradition, and unless the Home countries eventually combine to produce a United Kingdom side I can't see it ever being dropped.

The Welsh and Northern Ireland lads look forward to the matches immensely. Their countries don't play as many internationals as England and Scotland so the tournament is an ideal way to add to their caps total.

They also welcome the chance to prove that they are no longer Britain's "poor soccer relations".

The Championship is also a much-needed source of revenue to these countries.

The tournament is welcomed by the four managers because it enables them to have their squads together for a long period. This gives them another chance to get a settled team, re-establish and build-up team-spirit, experiment with new ideas and tactics. Introduce new men to the atmosphere of international football.

At one time, the competition was spread throughout the season. Now, of course, it's played at the end of term, over a fortnight.

This is a much better arrangement as far as I'm concerned. Many argue that it puts an unnecessary burden on players after a tough season, especially those involved in the hunt for honours... as most internationals are.

There's some truth in that, but generally speaking players enjoy the tournament.

I know I'll be most disappointed if Don Revie leaves me out of any of the teams for the three matches. Like most players I want to grab as many opportunities as I can to play for my country. I'd even turn out on one leg if I had to.

Playing the Championship over such a short space of time gives it an extra competitive edge — adds a touch of the Cup-tie spirit to the games.

Northern Ireland (dark shirts) on the attack against England during the 0-0 British Championship draw in 1975 in Belfast.



EIRE

Whatever the result of our matches against Wales and Northern Ireland, the tournament's "Cup Final" is obviously England v. Scotland.

A win for the Scots keeps their fans happy for a year — until the next time the two countries clash.

Beating the Auld Enemy means much more to the Scots than it does for an Englishman. To many of them it is the only international game that counts.

I wonder if Scotsmen would agree with two changes I'd like to see introduced. Invite the Republic of Ireland to take part in the tournament and have a special trophy for the England/Scotland game.

Forget politics — I believe Eire would welcome the opportunity to compete.

Many of their players are well-known to British fans, as is player-manager Johnny Giles.

Eire would present a new element, bring fresh talent and interest. Recent results prove they wouldn't be there simply to make

up the numbers. They'd be tremendous competitors.

Johnny Giles has achieved so much with Eire that an invitation from the four Home countries would be a gesture of recognition. It might also help to bring all five nations closer together politically.

Judging from the number of letters I receive from readers in Eire, I know the fans would welcome it.

The winners of the Rugby Union international between England and Scotland receive the Calcutta Cup.

The soccer fixture is so important to both countries so how about a second special trophy?

Some people might say it will take some of the gloss off the British Championship Cup. But as either country usually wins, surely a new trophy would serve as an added attraction.

If the two F.A.'s aren't interested, how about one of the TV companies, or a national newspaper, donating an award?

Anyway, it's food for thought. I'd be interested in the views of SHOOT readers on both these suggestions.

England kick-off their challenge to Championship-holders Scotland with a match against Northern Ireland in Belfast.

The prospect of going over there doesn't worry me, or any of the other English lads.

The team received a great reception when they fought a 0-0 draw at Windsor Park in 1975.

You've got to admire Northern Ireland for the way they have steadily made progress at club and international level, despite the troubles. Soccer has certainly triumphed over politics.

United's Irish stars, Sammy McIlroy, Chris McGrath, Jimmy Nicholl and David McCreery have been stirring things up at Old Trafford.

So has our trainer Tommy Cavanagh, who does the same job for Northern Ireland.

No serious aggro, of course, just good old-fashioned fun at the

expense of the English and Scottish contingents at United.

Mind you, I give as good as I get and enjoy telling them that Northern Ireland's last home win v. England was at Windsor Park, way back in October, 1927, when they won 2-0.

Danny Blanchflower's squad is much stronger now, of course, and are still in with a chance of qualifying for the World Cup Finals.

Forget that recent 5-0 thrashing by West Germany in Cologne. Ireland will be a different proposition on Saturday in front of their own fans.

Wales, too, can still qualify for the World Cup, at the expense of Scotland.

At present, there are no Welshmen at Old Trafford. The only two I can recall of later years are the two Davies' Ron and Wyn.

Wales have been enjoying a fine spell under their English manager Mike Smith, and won't be an easy touch at Wembley.

Although they haven't beaten England since 1955, the Welsh always seem to make us struggle, especially at Wembley.

Remember the 2-2 draw in 1975 and the humiliating 1-1 World Cup qualifying setback in 1973. That, more than the Poland game, cost England a trip to West Germany for the 1974 Finals.

Mind you, Wembley does seem to give the opposition more inspiration than the home side.

But, even if the luck is all on Northern Ireland's side and the Welsh dragons breathe fire, I'm confident England can gain two victories to boost our confidence for the "big one" against Scotland on June 4th.

I'll be talking about that next week. Take care . . .



Gerry Daly equalises for Eire against England at Wembley last September.

SEND YOUR QUESTIONS TO:

League Cup 'live'

Could you tell me why the Football League Cup Final at Wembley is never televised "live", while the F.A. Cup Final is?

STEPHEN SIWAK,
COLNE

For the very sound reason, Stephen, that, unlike the May date of the F.A. Cup Final, the League Cup Final is played during the full season proper while a normal League programme is being staged on the same afternoon.

Though Wembley itself would doubtless still be a sell-out anyway... as you can imagine, the effect on other gates (particularly already hard-pressed clubs in the lower Divisions) would prove disastrous if the League Cup Final could be seen in one's own living-room "for free".

John's Welsh brother

Is it true there's a full England international playing now whose brother won full caps for Wales?

DAVID HAMMOND,
STROUD

Yes, there is, David — and that man is Q.P.R.'s John Hollins.

While still with Chelsea, he played in the 2-0 win over Spain at Wembley on 24th May, 1967.

But earlier brother Dave, as a goal-keeper with Newcastle, had played 11 times for Wales.

The reason? John was born in Guildford, Surrey; Dave in Bangor, North Wales.

ASK THE EXPERT

SHOOT!, IPC Magazines Ltd., King's Reach Tower,
Stamford Street, London, SE1 9LS.

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Exit England

Could you please tell me the England team which lost 3-2 to West Germany in Mexico in the Quarter-Finals of the 1970 World Cup, and also who scored the goals?

JEREMY SPILLMAN,
WHITLEY BAY



This is how England started that game, Jeremy — Bonetti (Chelsea), Newton (Everton), Cooper (Leeds), Mullery (Spurs), Labone (Everton), Moore (West Ham), Lee (Manchester City), Bell (Everton), Hurst (West Ham), Charlton (Manchester United), and Peters (above, Spurs).

Bell (Manchester City) substituted for Charlton in the 89th minute, and Hunter (Leeds) for Peters in the 80th.

England took a 2-0 lead from Mullery (31st minute) and Peters (50th) — but the West Germans won through with goals from Beckenbauer (68th), Seeler (82nd) and Müller (eighth minute of extra-time).

Arthur Rowley

I know Arthur Rowley scored more goals than any other player in the Football League, but who holds the record for the Scottish League?

DAVID MEYER,
EDINBURGH

Jimmy McGrory is the tops there, David, with 410 Scottish League goals — 397 for Celtic and 13 for Clydebank — between 1922 and 1938.

And, what's more, he scored those 410 goals in only 408 games.

Rowley's 434 between 1946 and 1965, incidentally, came in 619 games.

WIN £1 ...

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If there is anything about the game that puzzles you... if you want that query answered... or that argument settled, write to:

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Where are they now?

Could you tell me when Gateshead, Bradford Park Avenue, Barrow, and Accrington Stanley left the Football League — and also who replaced each one?

NEIL CLEWER,
ARGYLL

The first three all failed to gain re-election: Neil — Gateshead in 1960, Bradford P.A. in 1970, and Barrow in 1972 — while Accrington resigned for financial reasons during the 1961-62 season.

They were replaced by, respectively, Peterborough, Cambridge, Hereford, and Oxford.

Ex-United pals

I'd like to know how many goals Newcastle's Alan Gowling and Bolton's Willie Morgan scored while they were with Manchester United.

BRYNJAR HAUKEL,
NORWAY

Gowling had 18 goals in 64 League games (plus another seven coming on as substitute); Brynjar, while Morgan scored 23 in 236 League games (plus two as sub).

Crewe of Division Two

What is the highest position my local club, Crewe Alexandra, have ever finished in the League, and what is their record attendance?

MARTIN FODEN,
CREWE

Tenth in Division Two, in its inaugural season of 1892-93, is Crewe's best Martin.

Their biggest home gate is 20,000 — for a Fourth Round F.A. Cup tie, on 30th January, 1960, when they held Tottenham to a creditable 2-2 draw.

The replay at White Hart Lane, incidentally, ended 13-2 — for Spurs' best ever victory, and Crewe's worst-ever defeat.

Derby draw

What was the score, scorers, and attendance of Q.P.R.'s home League game with Chelsea on 6th October, 1973?

ADRIAN WOOTTON,
FAREHAM

Like so many local derbies, Adrian, it ended in a draw — 1-1.

Stan Bowles scored for Rangers, but an own-goal from Terry Mancini gave Chelsea their share of the spoils.

The gate was 31,000.

Semi-Finalists York

What is the highest position York City have ever reached in the League, and what is the furthest they've ever got in the Cups?

JOHN BEACH,
HULL

York's League best has been in finishing 15th in Division Two in the 1974-75 season, John.

In 1954-55 they became one of the only five Division Three clubs to reach the F.A. Cup Semi-Finals; while, in the League Cup, the Fifth Round in 1961-62 has been their best effort.

SHORT PASSES

Record Scottish League victory is Celtic 11, Dundee 0 on 26th October, 1895.

(JANE GOREHAM, Norwich)

Nottingham Forest last played in Division One in the 1971-72 season.

(WILLIAM OWEN, Newark)

Gordon Banks, with 73 full international appearances, is easily England's most-capped goalkeeper.

(JOHN PILATOS, Australia)

Q.P.R. have never got beyond the Quarter-Finals of the F.A. Cup.

(CHRIS HITCHING, Welwyn Garden City)

Our Expert would like to point out that although all letters are read, he can only reply to published questions because of shortage of time.

Top cricket teams in TIGER!



In this week's TIGER, you'll find a super, two-page, full-colour county cricket team photo! It's the first in a brand new series of 1977 top teams in the world of cricket! All sports fans will want to collect this big-picture cricket series... it's a winner! And remember that in the same issue of TIGER you'll find another article by Tony Greig... written just for YOU!

Plus Part 3 of

WELCOME TO THE AUSSIES!

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OUT
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30 MAY
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CLUB SPOTLIGHT

AS Queens Park Rangers excited us all with their progress to the Quarter-Finals of the U.E.F.A. Cup this season, few supporters would have believed the West London club would be struggling for its First Division life as the 1976-77 term ended.

The Rangers have been hard hit by injuries, but so have other teams in the First Division relegation zone. West Ham and Derby County can also claim to be victims of the injury bug.

But surely the main cause of the Rangers' slump can be laid on the shocking state of their pitch. The loss of regular home games disrupted the rhythm of a side that finished runners-up to Liverpool last season. Let's hope the Rangers' Board have the pitch dug up this summer and more efficient drainage installed. It would give the football public a chance to see the Rangers playing the attractive style of football that is a credit to the game.

COMPILED BY JOHN PYKE

FIRST LEAGUE MATCH:

(Home) August 28th, 1920 — lost to Watford 1-2. Division Three (South).

(Away) September 4th, 1920 — beat Watford 2-0. Division Three (South).

RECORD VICTORY:

9-2 v Tranmere Rovers, Division Three, December 3rd, 1960.

RECORD DEFEAT:

1-8 v Mansfield Town, Division

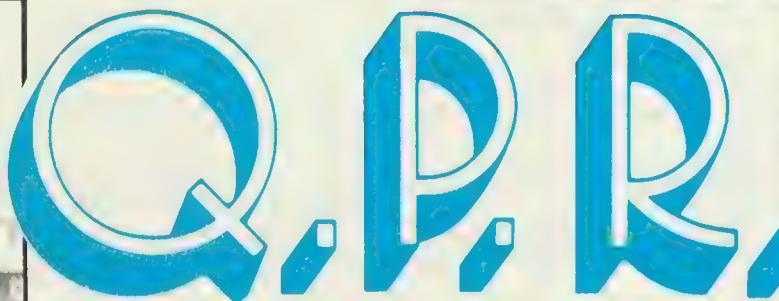
Three, March 15th, 1965 and 1-8 v Manchester United, Division One, March 19th, 1969.

MOST LEAGUE POINTS IN A SEASON:

67 in Division Three, 1966-67.

MOST LEAGUE GOALS IN A SEASON:

111 in Division Three, 1961-62.



Q.P.R. progressed to the Quarter-Finals of the U.E.F.A. Cup. Don Givens (above, hoops) beats Slovan Bratislava's Elefant to the ball during their 5-2 Second Round, home-leg win. Rangers won 8-5 on aggregate. Manager Dave Sexton (left).



LEAGUE CUP RECORD

(W—Winners; F—Finalists; S/F—Semi-Finalists; Q/F—Quarter-Finalists)

SEASON	Round Reached
1960-61	1st
1961-62	2nd
1962-63	2nd
1963-64	1st
1964-65	2nd
1965-66	1st
1966-67	W
1967-68	4th
1968-69	2nd
1969-70	Q/F
1970-71	3rd
1971-72	4th
1972-73	2nd
1973-74	4th
1974-75	3rd
1975-76	4th
1976-77	S/F

(Rangers' only venture into European football came this season, when they reached the Quarter-Finals of the U.E.F.A. Cup.)

Gerry Francis (above) skippers both England and Rangers. Unfortunately, has spent most of the past season out injured. Stan Bowles (right) missed the end of the term with a broken ankle.

DATE FOUNDED: 1885.

PRINCIPAL HONOURS GAINED:

Division Three (South) Champions—1947-48.

Division Three Champions—1966-67.

Football League Cup Winners—1966-67.

FOOTBALL LEAGUE CAREER:

Division Three—1920-21; Division Three—1958-67.

Division Three (South) —1921-48; Division Two—1967-68;

Division One—1968-69;

Division Two—1948-52; Division Two—1969-1973;

Division Three (South) —1952-58; Division One—1973 onward.

LEAGUE AND F.A. CUP RECORD

(C—League Champions; P—Promoted; R—Relegated; W—Winners; F—Finalists; S/F—Semi-Finalists; Q/F—Quarter-Finalists)

SEASON	LEAGUE Division and placing	F.A. CUP Round Reached
1945-46	—	5th
1946-47	3(S)- 2nd	3rd
1947-48	3(S)- 1st (P)	Q/F
1948-49	2 -13th	3rd
1949-50	2 -20th	3rd
1950-51	2 -16th	3rd
1951-52	2 -22nd	3rd
1952-53	3(S)-21st	1st
1953-54	3(S)-18th	3rd
1954-55	3(S)-15th	1st
1955-56	3(S)-18th	1st
1956-57	3(S)-10th	3rd
1957-58	3(S)-10th	2nd
1958-59	3 -13th	2nd
1959-60	3 - 8th	2nd
1960-61	3 - 3rd	2nd
1961-62	3 - 4th	3rd
1962-63	3 -13th	3rd
1963-64	3 -15th	3rd
1964-65	3 -14th	2nd
1965-66	3 - 3rd	3rd
1966-67	3 - 1st (P)	3rd
1967-68	2 - 2nd (P)	3rd
1968-69	1 -22nd (R)	3rd
1969-70	2 - 9th	Q/F
1970-71	2 -10th	3rd
1971-72	2 - 4th	3rd
1972-73	2 - 2nd (P)	5th
1973-74	1 - 8th	Q/F
1974-75	1 -11th	5th
1975-76	1 - 2nd	3rd
1976-77	1 - —	4th

Continued on page 22

BACK ROW (left to right): Ian Gillard, Steve Jones, Peter Eastoe, Tony Tagg, Frank McLintock.

CENTRE ROW: Ron Abbott, Don Givens, Tommy Cunningham, Phil Parkes, Derek Richardson, Martyn Busby (now Notts County), Dave Clement, Phil Nutt.

FRONT ROW: Don Shanks, Stan Bowles, Don Masson, Dave Thomas, John Hollins, David Webb, Mick Leach.





CLUB SPOTLIGHT

PEN-PICTURES OF Q.P.R. FIRST TEAM SQUAD

(L. App.— League Appearances; G.— Goals; S.— Substitutes; All records to end of April, 1977.)

RON ABBOTT: Defender signed professional in July, 1971. Born London. Ht. 6.1. Wt. 11.0. L. App.— 23 and 9 sub. G.— 2.

STAN BOWLES: Striker signed from Carlisle United in September, 1972, for £110,000. Five full England caps. Born Manchester. Ht. 5.11. Wt. 11.4. L. App.— Manchester City 15 and 2 sub, Bury 5, Crewe 51, Carlisle 33, Q.P.R. 169. G.— Manchester City 2, Crewe 18, Carlisle 12, Q.P.R. 61.

DAVE CLEMENT: Defender signed professional in July, 1965. Five full England caps. Born London. Ht. 6.0. Wt. 11.5. L. App.— 342 and 3 sub. G.— 21.

TOM CUNNINGHAM: Midfielder signed professional in May, 1975. Born London. Ht. 6.0. Wt. 11.3. L. App.— 3 and 2 sub.

PETER EASTOE: Striker signed from Swindon Town in March, 1976, for £80,000. Born Tamworth. Ht. 5.10. Wt. 11.3. L. App.— Wolves 4 and 2 sub, Swindon 91, Q.P.R. 18 and 3 sub. G.— Swindon 43, Q.P.R. 5.

GERRY FRANCIS: Midfielder, signed professional in June, 1969. Six England Under-23 appearances and 12 full caps. Born London. Ht. 5.9. Wt. 10.8. L. App.— 243 and 5 sub. G.— 49.

IAN GILLARD: Defender signed professional in October, 1968. Five England Under-23 appearances and three full caps. Born London. Ht. 6.1½. Wt. 12.0. L. App.— 207 and 3 sub. G.— 4.

DON GIVENS: Striker signed from Luton Town in July, 1972, for £40,000. 37 caps for the Republic of Ireland. Born Dublin. Ht. 6.0. Wt. 11.2. L. App.— Manchester United 4 and 4 sub, Luton 80 and 3 sub, Q.P.R. 199. G.— Man. Utd. 1, Luton 19, Q.P.R. 70.

JOHN HOLLINS: Midfielder signed from Chelsea in July, 1975 for £80,000. 12 England Under-23 appearances and one full cap. L. App.— Chelsea 436, Q.P.R. 62 and 2 sub. G.— Chelsea 47, Q.P.R. 3.

EDDIE KELLY: Midfielder signed in September, 1976, from Arsenal for £80,000. Three Scottish Under-23 appearances. Born Glasgow. Ht. 5.7. Wt. 12.0. L. App.— Arsenal 168 and 7 sub, Q.P.R. 23. G.— Arsenal 13, Q.P.R. 1.

MICK LEACH: Midfielder signed professional in February, 1964.



Born London. Ht. 5.11. Wt. 12.0. L. App.— 284 and 19 sub. G.— 61.

FRANK McLINTOCK: Defender signed from Arsenal in June, 1973. One Scottish Under-23 appearance and nine full caps. Born Glasgow. Ht. 5.10½. Wt. 11.2. L. App.— Leicester 170, Arsenal 312 and 2 sub, Q.P.R. 120 and 1 sub. G.— Leicester 25, Arsenal 26, Q.P.R. 5.

DON MASSON: Midfielder signed from Notts County for £100,000 in December, 1974. Five full Scottish caps. Born Banchory. Ht. 5.8. Wt. 10.12. L. App.— Middlesbrough 51 and 3 sub, Notts. Co. 273, Q.P.R. 98. G.— Middlesbrough 6, Notts Co. 81, Q.P.R. 14.

PHIL PARKES: Goalkeeper signed from Walsall for £15,000 in June, 1970. Six England Under-23 appearances and one full cap. Born Sedgeley. Ht. 6.1. Wt. 14.0. L. App.— Walsall 52, Q.P.R. 283.

DON SHANKS: Defender signed from Luton in November, 1974, for £30,000. Born London. Ht. 5.10. Wt. 10.8. L. App.— Luton 89 and 1 sub, Q.P.R. 20 and 2 sub. G.— Luton 2.

DAVE THOMAS: Winger signed in October, 1972, for £165,000 from Burnley. 11 England Under-23 appearances and eight full caps. Born Kirkby in Ashfield. Ht. 5.8. Wt. 9.13. L. App.— Burnley 152 and 4 sub, Q.P.R. 175 and 1 sub. G.— Burnley 19, Q.P.R. 29.

DAVID WEBB: Defender signed from Chelsea in June, 1974, for £90,000. Born London. Ht. 5.10½. Wt. 12.11. L. App.— Orient 62, Southampton 75, Chelsea 230, Q.P.R. 104. G.— Orient 3, Southampton 2, Chelsea 21, Q.P.R. 6.

Up to the British Championship, defender Ian Gillard (left) had won three full England caps. David Webb (right) joined the club from Chelsea in June, 1974. Dave Thomas (below) cost Rangers £165,000.

MOST FULL INTERNATIONAL APPEARANCES:
Don Givens 37 Caps for Eire (to end of April, 1977)

HIGHEST LEAGUE GOALSCORER:
Aggregate—George Goddard 172 (1926-34)
Season—George Goddard 37 in Division Three (South) 1929-30.

MOST LEAGUE APPEARANCES:
Tony Ingham 519 (1950-63).



League Fixtures

Date	Opponents	Result
AUG 1976		
21	Everton	H 0-4
23	West Ham	A 0-1
28	Ipswich T	A 2-2
SEPT		
4	W.B.A.	H 1-0
11	Aston Villa	H 2-1
18	Leicester C	A 2-2
25	Stoke C	H 2-0
OCT		
2	Arsenal	A 2-3
5	Norwich C	H 2-3
16	Manchester C	A 0-0
23	Sunderland	H 2-0
30	Birmingham C	A 1-2
NOV		
6	Derby Co	H 1-1
9	Coventry C	A 0-2
20	Middlesbrough	H 3-0
27	Newcastle U	A 0-2
DEC		
11	Liverpool	A 1-3
27	Norwich C	A 0-2
JAN		
11	Tottenham H	H 2-1
22	Everton	A 3-1
FEB		
12	W.B.A.	A 1-1
26	Leicester C	H 3-2
MAR		
5	Stoke C	A 0-1
8	Leeds U	H 0-0
12	Arsenal	H 2-1
19	Bristol C	A 0-1
22	Manchester C	H 0-0
APR		
2	Sunderland	A 0-1
4	West Ham	H 1-1
9	Tottenham H	A 0-3
11	Coventry C	H 1-1
16	Middlesbrough	A 2-0
19	Manchester U	H 4-0
23	Newcastle U	H 1-2
26	Bristol C	H 0-1
30	Manchester U	A 0-1
MAY		
7	Liverpool	H 1-1
11	Derby Co	A 0-2
14	Leeds U	A 1-0
16	Ipswich T	H 1-0
20	Aston Villa	A 1-0
23	Birmingham	H

YOU ARE THE REF

Compiled by STAN LOVER, Chairman of the London Referees' Society



SHOOT-IN AT STAN

WHAT IS A KICK?

Lee Oldham of Rugby, asks: "Is the DONKEY-KICK allowed?"

Lee's question refers to an incident, during a First Division match in 1971 which caused a flurry among referees and soccer Law-makers. Willie Carr and Ernie Hunt, playing for Coventry at the time, devised a unique method of putting the ball into play from a free-kick which caught the opposing defenders completely off-guard and resulted in a goal.

Millions saw the incident on TV, dissected by slow motion and stop-frame techniques. The DONKEY-KICK had arrived — but, not for long.

It was simple enough. Coventry were awarded an indirect free-kick just outside the opponent's penalty-area. While defenders were busy discussing the number of players needed to form the "wall", Willie Carr strolled casually towards the ball, at right angles to the goal. When he arrived at the ball he appeared to step over it but he stopped, gripped the ball between both ankles and flicked it up behind his back.

Ernie Hunt, standing nearby in an equally casual manner, suddenly sprung into action and volleyed the ball into the net. Tommy Dawes, the referee, had not met this situation before and decided that the goal was good.

The incident became a serious debating point at referees' gatherings, not only in this country but in far off lands where televised League matches are screened within days of the live event.

What became clear, from many heated exchanges, was the confusion! Was it a fair kick at the ball or not? A simple question, but it was not until 19th June, 1971, that the International F.A. Board considered the problem and accepted the argument that: "... the ball was not kicked in the accepted sense of the word." The goal should not have been allowed and the free-kick should have been retaken.

The answer then, Lee, is: No, the DONKEY-KICK is not allowed!

A variation of this kick is where the kicker lifts the ball with one foot. Many consider this to be illegal. It is ironic that Coventry were on the receiving end of such a tactic when, in, 1973 Terry Venables, playing for Queens Park Rangers, lifted the ball over the Coventry "wall" for Gerry Francis to nip in and volley into the goal. The goal was allowed.

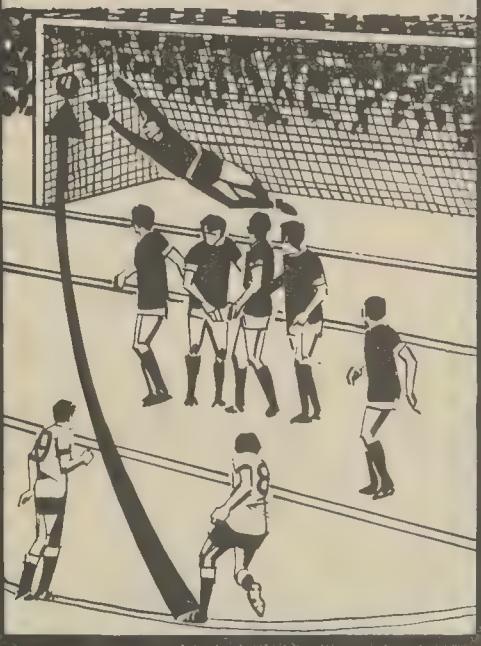
My dictionary says that a kick is, "... a blow with the foot." A clear enough definition which rules out all lifting tactics.

HALF-TIME TEASER

"Have the linesmen the power to dismiss a biased referee?" Was the teaser in our May 21st issue. Answer: No. Linesmen are entirely under the direction of the referee. This week George Spencer of Leeds, asks: "Is it allowed for a referee to wear spectacles when controlling a match?"

1

A free-kick is awarded after a defender distracts an opponent by shouting. The ball is kicked direct on goal. Do you (a) award a goal or (b) a goal-kick?



2

From a corner-kick the ball strikes a goalpost and rebounds to the kicker. He kicks the ball into the goal-area and a goal is scored. Do you (a) allow the goal, (b) award a goal-kick or (c) a free-kick against the corner-taker?



3

The ball is going out of play close to an attacker who is in an offside position. Before it can cross the touch-line the ball is deflected from a linesman back to the attacker. Do you (a) take no action, (b) stop play and drop the ball or (c) award a free-kick to the defending side?



4



A substitute gets up from the bench, runs into his own team's penalty-area and trips an opposing player. You stop play, dismiss the substitute and restart by dropping the ball.



B: When the ball is dropped a defender accidentally kicks it directly into his own goal. You award a goal.
(Where is the problem?)

ANSWERS

problem is in A. A substitute is considered to be a player whether called upon to play or not. The correct award is a penalty-kick in B because before another player has played the ball twice before another player has touched it.

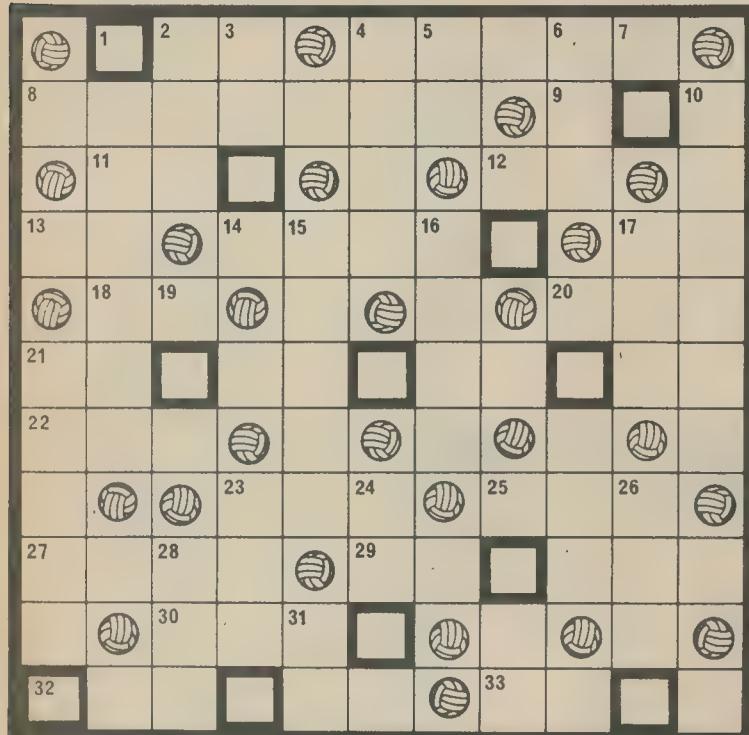
A goal would be the correct decision. A goal would be the correct decision. Award a free-kick (c) for offside. 4. The referee before another player has played the ball twice before another player has awarded (c) because before another player has touched it.

Indirect. 2. A free-kick should be awarded (c) because before another player has played the ball twice before another player has touched it.

1. Award a goal-kick (b). The free-kick is

Go for the Double

After solving the clues in this specially compiled crossword, you can use the letters in the thick-edged squares to form the name of a Norwich City midfield player. Answers on page 38.



ACROSS:

- (1) Denis —, former famous name with Manchester United.
- (4) Clive —, Ipswich Town winger.
- (8) — Town, play at Shay Ground.
- (9) —herham United from Millmoor.
- (11) Tony —ack-, of Derby County.
- (12) Tony —ols, Burnley striker.
- (13) —ton Park, home of West Ham United.
- (14) Tr-ver Fra— of Birmingham City. From that time and the missing letters.
- (17) Tommy —cherty, manager of Manchester United.
- (18) Booth- Crescent, home of York City.
- (20) Midd-esbr-ugh play at Ayresome -ark.
- (21) — —, manager of Nottingham Forest.
- (22) Glenn H—le of Spurs.
- (23) Make the three missing letters in -o-hd-le into a curve.
- (25) Crystal Pal—.
- (27) J-m -a-t-r (famous Scotland and Sunderland wing-half) Kind of goat from the missing letters.
- (29) Bill —, Burnley midfielder.
- (30) Lo—reet, ground of St. Mirren.
- (32) — Road, Crewe Alexandra's home.
- (33) Obligation — as a player has to his club.

DOWN:

- (1) Frank —, West Ham full-back.
- (2) Derek H—s of Derby County. Triumphs.
- (3) Put on guard, or caution against.
- (4) Ibr— Park, Rangers.
- (5) Play is much faster on a — pitch.
- (6) Peter O-g-od of Southampton.
- (7) The actual World Cup is one.
- (10) Kenny Cle-nets of Manchester City.
- (12) Kenny Cle-nets of Manchester City. -ott-gham Fo-st. An archery score from the missing letters.
- (16) Rear of the leg below the knee.
- (17) Animal once involved in the recovery of the stolen World Cup.
- (19) Steve Kember of Leicester, for instance, is a — field player.
- (20) Stagger — or move to one side.
- (21) Tiresome or tedious — like a poor game.
- (23) Chops down — or removes.
- (24) It follows Leicester, Manchester or Bristol!
- (25) Vicar— Roa-, Watford.
- (26) —er Road Park, Hibernian.
- (28) —rton play at Goodison.
- (31) — Johnstone from Muirton Park.

LAST Summer, I commented that after such a long and demanding season I could have done with more than five weeks' rest . . . which was all the close-season England players had.

Ironically, my back injury flared up during August and now, as the season slowly draws to a halt, I find I've played around a dozen or so games . . . yet I feel even more shattered than in 1976.

The difference is that now I feel shattered mentally rather than physically, which was the problem ten months ago.

It's not so much my back troubles, but the niggling injuries I've had since returning three months ago.

I was going well and feeling really sharp, looking forward to playing in Europe with Q.P.R. and against Luxembourg in the World Cup with England.

Suddenly . . . I strained a hamstring and I was back to square one. I was choked.

my side of soccer
GERRY FRANCIS



I came back again, but then I had knocks on my knees and ankles that meant for a spell I was just playing.

In between games, I was resting. The fact that Rangers were not clear of the relegation zone didn't help either.

I'm the type of player who likes to be 100 per cent fit all the time. I enjoy training and hate to miss even one session.

Playing, but hardly training, meant that I wasn't really fully fit and I approach the British Championship wondering if I'm as sharp as I should be.

Don't get me wrong. You won't see me on my knees after a quarter of an hour. All the same, the last 20 minutes or so of games have been

rather tiring because I haven't trained as hard as I'd have liked to have done.

I wouldn't necessarily say there was a different standard of fitness needed at international level.

At League level, play is more organised as you know your teammates that much better. Also, if you lose you can make up for it next week.

With England, the blend is not so familiar and far more importance is put on an individual match.

Anyway, I'm glad to be back in the England reckoning. It's been a frustrating season watching the lads on T.V. or from the stands.

I don't feel I have anything to prove. My attitude is simply to get





Far Left . . . "It will be great to be back with England and boss Don Revie again after my season of injuries."

Top Left . . . "I was disappointed when England received hardly any credit for winning in Cardiff last May."

Above . . . "I took some 'stick' after our defeat in Czechoslovakia."

soccer-loving fans of Belfast should be robbed of football. I'd never opt out of playing there . . . it's just a pity things are as they are.

I'll be interested to see how Ireland play under the guidance of Danny Blanchflower.

I remember Danny from his Spurs days; I admired him and liked to watch the great Spurs team whenever I could.

Danny has his own ideas about football and won't be swayed. As manager of Northern Ireland, he doesn't face the pressure of Don Revie — because the Irish aren't expected to win every game.

although not surprised — when England received hardly any credit for winning in Cardiff last May.

We had an experimental side and yet we beat Wales, who were in the middle of a fine run.

Still, whatever England do, certain people are reluctant to give us praise.

Back to the games . . . and Don Revie has kept me involved during my lay-off. I've seen him and spoken to him on the phone and now I just want to do something positive.

I'll be looking to helping England find a settled side. The World Cup Finals are only a year away and while we have had many injuries, we now have the chance, with six games in a month, to build something.

I have my eyes more on next season, when — touch wood — I'll be able to play regularly.

In the meantime, there's a lot to be done during the next few weeks — starting with Northern Ireland on Saturday.

Before I close, I'd like to bring your attention to the problems that can surround personal appearances by footballers as I've found myself in the middle of some misunderstandings recently.

I always try to help out when I can, especially with charities. As the fixtures have been changed so much during March and April, I've been reluctant to give a definite "yes" to anyone.

I said I'd go along to an art exhibition one afternoon if I could. Before I knew what was happening, posters were all over the place saying I'd definitely be there.

As it turned out, I had to stay behind after training for treatment and so couldn't make it . . . as I'd warned.

I said I'd do something on Friday, May 20th, not dreaming I'd possibly be playing that day! Again, though, I warned the people concerned it wasn't 100 per cent certain I'd be present.

What happened? Our game against Aston Villa in Birmingham was re-arranged for that night!

'SHATTERED -but glad to be back'

out there and do my best — whatever the situation. This is how I expect to be judged.

As far as I'm concerned, I've proved I can do it and I hope to carry on from where I left off in Helsinki in England's 4-1 World Cup win.

I took some stick following our European Championship exit, but played my way back and, I like to think, showed I have a lot to offer as an England player and captain.

Some people have been saying how Rangers and England have missed me. Of course, the respective slumps aren't just due to my absence — there are a number of reasons.

Now that I'm back, I want to get

on with the job of helping England build up the sort of blend and balance we were approaching this time last year.

We kick-off the British Championship against Northern Ireland. There's been discussion about the venue . . . whether England should travel to Belfast because of the unrest in Ulster.

This is a tricky problem, one which I regret has come about. To be honest, personal safety is in the back of my mind — it only needs one lunatic to cause havoc.

I went to Belfast with England two years ago. We had police and Army guards and the game was played under a shadow of security.

However, it's a shame that the

Even so, Wales — our second British Championship opponents — have proved that a "less fashionable" country can live with the best.

Under Mike Smith, Wales have done well in the European Championship and now lead their World Cup group.

I've always maintained having a small squad of players is not necessarily a handicap.

Wales have been able to build up the sort of understanding many teams envy because the nucleus of the team has been together so long.

Unlike England, Wales haven't had too many injury problems and their results over the last two years have been very good.

This is why I was disappointed —

So if you go somewhere expecting to see a well-known footballer and he doesn't turn up . . . don't immediately label him as unreliable.

It could, in fact, be the fault of the organisers who have "jumped the gun".

That's all for this week.

Perry Rainey

RESULTS . . . SCORERS . . . TEAM LINE-UPS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13

SCOTTISH PREMIER (Continued)

DUNDEE UTD (2) 2 (Storrock, Rolland) 8,000
ABERDEEN (1) 3 (Scott, Smith, Rougvie)
Dundee U: McAlpine; Rolland, Kopel, Rennie, Smith (Hall), Narey, Sturrock, Houston, Hegarty, McAdam, Payne.
Aberdeen: McLean; Kennedy, Shirra, Smith, Garner, Miller, Sullivan, Scott, Harper, Rougvie, Graham.

HEARTS (1) 2 (Gibson, Brown) 10,000
HIBS (2) 2 (Bremner 2)
Hearts: Cruickshank; Brown, Kay, Shaw, Gallacher, Clunie, Aird, Busby, Gibson, Park, Prentice.
Hibs: McDonald; Brownlie, Schaeffer, Bremner, Stewart, Blackley, Edwards, McLeod, Scott, Smith, Duncan.

MOTHERWELL (1) 3 (Kennedy, Lynch own goals 2)
CELTIC (0) 0 13,820
Motherwell: Hunter, Watson, Wark, McAdam, McLaren, Stevens, Miller (J), Pettigrew, Graham, Davidson, Kennedy.
Celtic: Barnes; McGrain, Lynch, Stanton, Edvaldsson, Aitken, Conn, Glavin, Craig, Dalglish, Burns.

RANGERS (2) 2 (Johnson 2). 3,500
PARTICK (0) 1 (Melrose)
Rangers: Kennedy; Jardine, Greig, Forsyth, Jackson, Watson, McLean, Hamilton, Parlane, MacDonald, Johnstone.
Partick: Rough; Hansen (J), Whittaker, Campbell, Marr, Hansen (A), Johnston, Melrose (McQuade), Gibson, Deans, Craig.

FRIDAY, APRIL 15

FOURTH DIVISION

COLCHESTER (0) 1 (Gough)
DONCASTER (0) 0 4,668
Colchester: Walker; Cook, Williams, Leslie, Smith, Downman, Garwood, Gough, Frogatt, Allinson, Dyer.
Doncaster: Peacock; Brookes, Reed, Robinson, Olney, Taylor, Miller, Murray, O'Calaghan, Kitchen, Laidlaw.

SOUTHEND (0) 1 (Hadley)
BARNESLEY (1) 1 (Joycey) 4,685
Southend: Rafter; Banks, Ford, Laverick, Moody, Townsend, Morris, Goodwin, Parker, Hadley, Little.
Barnesley: Springett; Murphy, Collins, Pugh, Saunders, Pickering, Warnock, Joycey, Peachey, Millar, Brown.

SATURDAY, APRIL 16

FIRST DIVISION

BIRMINGHAM (0) 2 (Francis, Burns)
STOKE (0) 0 19,554
Birmingham: Montgomery; Calderwood, Pendrey, Kendall, Gallagher, Want, Jones, Francis, Burns, Hibbit, Connolly.
Stoke: Shilton; Dodd, Marsh, Mahoney, Smith, Bloor, Ruggiero, Robertson, Tudor, Conroy, Crooks.

COVENTRY (2) 2 (Wallace 2)
ASTON VILLA (1) 3 (Cowans, Deehan, Little) 31,158
Coventry: Sealey; Roberts, McDonald, Yorath, Dugdale, Coop, Beck, Wallace, Ferguson, Powell, Hutchinson.
Villa: Burridge; Smith, Robson, Phillips, Nicholl, Mortimer, Graydon, Little, Deehan, Cropley, Cowans.

DERBY (2) 2 (Daly 2, 1 pen.)
EVERTON (0) 3 (Latchford, Pejic, McKenzie) 23,443
Derby: Boulton; Langan, Webster (Newton), Daly, Daniel, Todd, Powell, Gemmill, Hales, Hector, James.
Everton: Davies; Robinson, Pejic, Lyons, McNaught, Rioch, Hamilton, Dobson, Latchford (Buckley), McKenzie, Goodlass.

LEEDS (2) 2 (McGhie, Clarke pen.)
IPSWICH (1) 1 (Bertschin) 28,578
Leeds: Stewart; Reaney, Gray (F), Cherry, McQueen, Madeley, Harris, Clarke, Jordan (Lorimer), Currie, McGhie.
Ipswich: Cooper; Burley, Tibbott, Talbot, Hunter, Roberts, Osborne, Mills, Bertschin, Whyman, Woods.

LIVERPOOL (1) 2 (Neal, Keegan)
ARSENAL (0) 0 48,174
Liverpool: Clemence; Neal, Jones, Smith, Kennedy, Hughes, Keegan, Case, Heighway, Johnson, McDermott.
Arsenal: Rimmer; Rice, Matthews, Price, O'Leary, Young, Brady, Hudson, Macdonald, Stapleton, Armstrong.

MAN. UTD (0) 1 (Greenhoff J.)
LEICESTER (0) 1 (Earle) 49,161
Man. U: Steyn; Nicholl, Albiston, McIlroy, Greenhoff (B), Buchan, Coppel, Greenhoff (J), Pearson, Macari, McCreery (Hill).
Leicester: Wallington; Whitworth, Rose, Kember, Sims, Woollett, Alderson, Samuels, Worthington, Earle, Bicknell.

MIDDLESBROUGH (0) 0
Q.P.R. (1) 2 (Abbott, Masson) 14,500
Middlesbrough: Cuff; Cragg, Cooper, Souness, Boam, Maddren, Hedley, Mills, McAndrew, Boersma (Bailey), Armstrong, Q.P.R.: Parkes; Clement, Gillard, Hollins, McIntosh, Webb, Eastoe, Kelly, Masson, Abbott, Givens.

NEWCASTLE (1) 3 (Gowling, Cannell, Nutly)
WEST HAM (0) 0 30,967
Newcastle: Mahoney, Natrass, Kennedy, Cassidy (Blackhall), McCaffery, Nutly, Barrowlough, Cannell, Burns, Gowling, Craig (T).
West Ham: Day; Bonds, Lampard, Pike, Taylor (T), McGiven, Radford, Robson (B), Devonshire, Brooking, Taylor (A).

NORWICH (1) 2 (Peters, Reeves)
BRISTOL C (1) 1 (Cormack) 18,434
Norwich: Keelan; Ryan, Sullivan, Suggett, Jones, Powell, Neighbour (Evans), Reeves, Gibbons, Steele, Peters.
Bristol: Shaw; Sweeney, Merrick, Gow, Collier, Hunter, Tainton, Ritchie, Gillies, Cormack, Whitehead.

TOTTENHAM (0) 1 (Jones)
SUNDERLAND (0) 1 (Holden) 34,185
Tottenham: Daines; Naylor, Stead, Pratt, Osgood, Perryman, Jones, Hoddle, Armstrong, Coates, Taylor.
Sunderland: Siddall; Docherty, Bolton, Arnott, Waldron, Ashurst, Towers, Elliott, Holden, Lee, Rowell.

W.B.A. (0) 0
MAN. CITY (1) 2 (Tueart, Kidd) 24,889
W.B.A.: Osborne; Mulligan, Statham, Martin, Wile, Robertson, Robson (Brown T.), Cunningham, Cross, Giles, Johnston.
Man. C: Corrigan; Clements, Donachie, Booth, Watson, Owen, Barnes, Keegan, Kidd, Hartford, Tueart.

SECOND DIVISION
BLACKBURN (0) 0
WOLVES (0) 2 (Hibbit pen., Richards) 11,291
Blackburn: Bradshaw; Fazackerley, Bailey, Metcalfe (Svarc), Keeley, Hawkins, Hird, Taylor, Waddington, Parkes, Wagstaffe.
Wolves: Pierce; Palmer, Parkin (Gould), Daley, Munro, McAlle, Hibbit, Richards, Sunderland, Carr, Patching.

BLACKPOOL (0) 2 (Walsh 2, 1 pen.)
CHARLTON (2) 2 (Flanagan, Berry) 8,686
Blackpool: Wood; Gardner, Harrison, Ronson, Hart, Suddaby, Spence (Finnegan), McEwan, Walsh, Hatton, Bentley.
Charlton: Wood; Curtis, Warman, Tydeman, Giles, Berry, Powell, Hunt, Flanagan, Peacock, McAuley.

BOLTON (2) 3 (Whatmore 2, Jones P.)
SOUTHAMPTON (0) 0 20,095
Bolton: McDonagh; Ritson, Walsh, Greaves, Jones (P), Nicholson, Morgan, Whatmore, Taylor, Reid, Train.
Southampton: Wells; Sharpe, Peach, Holmes, Blyth, Waldron, Ball, Channon, Osgood (Hebbert), Williams, MacDougall.

BRISTOL R (1) 1 (Powell)
BURNLEY (0) 1 (Noble) 6,373
Bristol R: Eadie; Bater, Pulis, Day, Taylor, Prince (Evans), Powell, Williams, Staniforth, Aitken, Stephens.

Burnley: Stevenson; Newton, Brennan, Noble, Robinson, Rodaway, Ingham, Smith, Loggie, Flynn, Morley.

CARDIFF (3) 4 (Sayer, Friday 2, Dwyer)
LUTON (1) 2 (Fletcher R., Chambers) 10,460
Cardiff: Healey; Attley, Pethard, Dwyer, Went, Larmour, Campbell, Giles, Sayer, Friday (Livermore), Grapes.

Luton: Alekovic; Price, Buckley, Chambers, Faulkner, Fletcher (P), Geddis, West (Husband), Fletcher (R), Fuccillo, Aston.

CHELSEA (0) 2 (Britton, Finnieston)
NOTTM FOREST (1) 1 (O'Neill) 36,499
Chelsea: Bonetti; Locke, Sparrow, Cooke, Wicks, Harris, Britton, Wilkins (R), Finnieston, Lewington, Langley.

Nottingham F: Middleton; Anderson, Clark, Chapman, Lloyd, Bowyer, McGovern, O'Neill, Withe, Woodcock, Robertson.

MILLWALL (1) 1 (Seasman)
CARLISLE (0) 1 (Tait) 6,237

Millwall: Johns; Donaldson, Moore, Brisley, Kitchener, Hazell, Alexander, Seasman, Harris (Lee), Walker, Jeffries.
Carlisle: Ross; Carr (Owen), McCartney, Martin, MacDonald, Parker, McVitie, Bonnyman, Tait, Rafferty, O'Neill.

NOTTS CO 0
FULHAM 0 14,847

Notts Co: McManus; Richards, O'Brien, Busby, Needham, Stubbs, Carter, Vinter, Bradd, Smith, Mann (Scanlon).
Fulham: Peyton; Evans, Strong, Storey, Lacy, Moore, Best, Bullivant, Warboys, Slough, Mitchell.

OLDHAM (2) 3 (Whittle, Shaw, Robins)
HEREFORD (2) 5 (McNeil 2, Spirin 2, Hicks o.g.) 7,733

Oldham: Ogden; Wood, Whittle, Bell, Hicks, Holt, Robins, Shaw, Halom, Young (Blair), Chapman.
Hereford: Hughes; Emery, Ritchie, Jefferson, Marshall, Sheedy, Lindsay, Briley, Sinclair, McNeil, Spirin (Galley).

ORIENT (0) 0

SHEFF. UTD. (1) 2 (Franks 2) 4,795
Orient: Jackson; Payne, Fisher, Roeder, Gray, Roffey, Possee, Glover, Bennett, Alder, Whittle (Chiedozie).
Sheff. U: Brown; Cutbush, Calvert, Longhorn, Franks, Kenworthy, Woodward (Flynn), Stainrod, Edwards, Hamson, Hamilton.

PLYMOUTH (0) 1 (Hall)
HULL (0) 2 (Dobson 2) 8,694

Plymouth: Ramsbottom; Darke, Horwill, Craven (Johnson), Sutton, Peddell, Hall, Foster, Trusson, Bannister, Devine.
Hull: Wealands; Daniel, Nisbet, Bremner, Croft, Haigh, Gibson, Lord, Sunley, Dobson, Stewart.

THIRD DIVISION

CHESTERFIELD 0

PETERBOROUGH 0 3,350
Chesterfield: Tingay; Smith, Burton, Tatt, Winstanley, O'Neill (Welch), Cammack, Simpson, Green, Kowalski, Heppolette.

Peterborough: Waugh; Hindley, Lee, Doyle, Turner, Ross, Nixon, Gregory, Cozens, Carmichael, Rogers (Hughes).

GILLINGHAM (0) 1 (Richardson pen.)

CHESTER (0) 0 3,963
Gillingham: Hillyard; Williams, Armstrong, Galvin, Shipperley, Hughes, Nicholl, Crabbe, Price, Richardson, Durrell.

Chester: Millington; Raynor, Walker, Storton, Delgado, Oakes, Dearden, Richardson, Kearny, Owen, Crossley.

LINCOLN (0) 0

OXFORD (0) 1 (Foley) 4,963
Lincoln: Grotier; Neale, Leigh, Booth, Ellis, Crombie, Fleming, Ward, Graham, Smith (Hubbard), Harding.

Oxford: Burton; Taylor, Fogg, Bodel, Clarke, Jeffrey, Briggs, Foley, Berry, Seacole (McGrogan), Duncan.

NORTHAMPTON (2) 3 (Reilly, Williams, Best)

YORK (0) 0 5,427
Northampton: Parton; Tucker (Haywood), Bryant, Gregory, Robertson, Best, Farrington, Williams, Martin, Reilly, Christie.

York: Crawford; Hunter, Hutt, Topping, James (Hope), Woodward, Pollard, Young, Hinch, Staniforth, Galvin.

WALSALL (0) 1 (Atthey)

BRIGHTON (0) 0 7,591
Walsall: Kearns; Taylor (Shelton), Atthey, Robinson, Serella, Hynd, Dennehy, Bates, Andrews, Buckley, Birch.

Brighton: Steele; Tiler, Cattlin, Horton, Rollings, Cross, Fell, Ward, Mellor (Morgan), Piper, O'Sullivan.

WREXHAM (1) 3 (Ashcroft, Whittle 2)

WRIMSBY (2) 2 (Drinkell 2) 7,878
Wrexham: Lloyd; Evans, Dwyer, Davis, Roberts, Thomas, Shinton, Sutton, Ashcroft, Whittle, Griffiths.

Grimsby: Wainman; Yates (Boyle), Moore, Waters, Hanvey, Booth, Liddell, Partridge, Drinkell, Cumming, Brolly.



Two goals from Neil Whatmore helped Bolton beat Southampton 3-0.

PORTSMOUTH (2) 5 (Denyer 2, Kemp 3)

ROTHERHAM (1) 1 (Phillips) 10,588
Portsmouth: Lloyd; Piper, Viney, Green, Foster, Cahill, Denyer, Kamara, Kemp, Gilchrist, Pullar.

Rotherham: McAlister; Pugh, Breckin, Rhoden, Stancliffe, Spencer, Finney, Phillips, Gwyther, Wagstaff, Crawford.

PORT VALE (1) 1 (Dulson)

TRANMERE (0) 1 (Allen pen.) 3,188
Port Vale: Connaughton; Osborne, Griffiths, Dulson, Harris, McLaren, Sutcliffe, Bailey, Brownbill, Beauchamp, Beech.

Tranmere: Johnson; Cliff, Flood, Parry, Phillips, Palios, Mathias, Tynan, Moore, James (Bramhall), Allen.

READING (1) 1 (Foster C. o.g.)

MANSFIELD (0) 0 4,900
Reading: Death; Peters, Drysdale, Bowman, Hetzke, Moreline, Earles, Murray, Hiron, Cumming, Dunphy.

Mansfield: Arnold; Bird, Foster (B), McEwan, Mackenzie, Foster (C), Morris, Moss, Randall, Hodgson, Miller.

SHIFF. WED. (0) 1 (Tynan)

PRESTON (0) 0 13,217
Sheff. W: Turner; Walden, Rushbury, Mullen, Dowd, Leman, Wyld, Henson, Tynan, Hope, Bradshaw (McKeown).

Preston: Smith (A); McMahon, Williams, Burns, Baxter, Lawrence, Coleman, Doyle, Smith (J), (Thomsen), Elwiss, Bruce.

SHREWSBURY (0) 1 (Atkins pen.)

C. PALACE (1) 1 (Graham) 4,240
Shrewsbury: Mulhearn; King, Leonard, Cross, Griffin, Hayes, Turner, Hornsby, Bates, Atkins, Maguire.

Palace: Burns; Hinshelwood, Sansom, Holder, Cannon, Evans, Chatterton, Graham, Bourne, Swindlehurst, Harkouk.

SWINDON (0) 0

BURY (1) 1 (Entwistle) 5,226
Swindon: Allan; Taylor, Trollope, Stroud, Aizlewood (French), Prophett, Moss, Dixon, Syrett, McHale, Anderson.

Bury: Forrest; Brown (Bailey), Kennedy, Thomson, Tucker, Hatton, Phillips, McLlwraith, Rowland, Entwistle, Farrell.

WALSALL (0) 1 (Atthey)

BRIGHTON (0) 0 7,591
Walsall: Kearns; Taylor (Shelton), Atthey, Robinson, Serella, Hynd, Dennehy, Bates, Andrews, Buckley, Birch.

Brighton: Steele; Tiler, Cattlin, Horton, Rollings, Cross, Fell, Ward, Mellor (Morgan), Piper, O'Sullivan.

WREXHAM (1) 3 (Ashcroft, Whittle 2)

WRIMSBY (2) 2 (Drinkell 2) 7,878
Wrexham: Lloyd; Evans, Dwyer, Davis, Roberts, Thomas, Shinton, Sutton, Ashcroft, Whittle, Griffiths.

Grimsby: Wainman; Yates (Boyle), Moore, Waters, Hanvey, Booth, Liddell, Partridge, Drinkell, Cumming, Brolly.

FOURTH DIVISION

BOURNEMOUTH (0) 0
DARLINGTON (1) 1 (Seal) 2,841
 Bournemouth: Baker; Cunningham, Butler, Morgan, Impey, Barton, Miller (Paterson), Cave, Howarth, Riley, Johnson.
 Darlington: Ogley; Crosson, Cochrane, Nattress, Stone, Craig, Lyons, Rowles, Ferguson, Seal, Young.

CAMBRIDGE (3) 5 (Hall, Biley, Finney 3, 1 pen)
SOUTHPORT (0) 1 (Batson o.g.) 4,335
 Cambridge: Webster; Batson, Harper, Stringer, Fallon, Howard, Watson (O'Neill), Spriggs, Hall, Finney, Biley.
 Southport: Harrison; Smith, Snookes, O'Neil, Brookes, Higham, Dewsnap, Fisher, Jones, Wilson, Galley.

CREWE (1) 2 (Bowles, Lugg pen.) 2,035
TORQUAY (1) 1 (Brown) Crewe: Brand; Lowry, Roberts, Lugg, Bowles, Bevan, Cheetah, Mayman, Davies (W), Purdie, Tully.
 Torquay: Robbins; Twitchin, Sandercock, Vassallo, Green, Boulton, Morrell, Lee, Rudge, Brown, Chatterley.

EXETER (1) 2 (Robertson pen., Hodge)
STOCKPORT (0) 1 (Darling) 4,474
 Exeter: Baugh; Templeman, Hore, Weeks, Saxton, Hatch, Hodge, Kellow, Robertson, Beer, Jennings.
 Stockport: Holbrook; Loadwick, Rutter, Thompson, Lennard, Fogarty, McBeth, Massey, Daniels, Morrin, Darling.

HALIFAX (1) 2 (Johnston, Bell)
BRADFORD (0) 1 (Watson) 6,402
 Halifax: Leonard; Trainer, Loska, Flavell, Phelan, Bradley, Hoy (Carroll), Bell, Bullock, Lawson, Johnston.
 Bradford: Dowsborough; Middleton, Podd, Hall, Nicholls, Fretwell, Watson, Dolan, Cooke, Wright, Hutchins.

HARTLEPOOL (0) 0
NEWPORT (1) 1 (Woods) 1,507
 Hartlepool: Edgar; Maggiore, Wiggett, Creamer, Scott, Simpkin, O'Donnell, McDermie, Endean, Poskett (Bielby), Cunningham.
 Newport: Plumley; Derrett, Bell, Emanuel, Walker, Jones, Preece, Williams, Woods, Relish, Byrne.

ROCHDALE (2) 2 (Earls o.g., Helliwell)
ALDERSHOT (0) 1 (Morrissey) 1,038
 Rochdale: Poole; Hallows, Lacey, Boslem, Bannon, O'Loughlin, Melledew, Dungworth, Mountford, Mullington, Helliwell.
 Aldershot: Johnson; Crosby, Butler, Hilton, Earls, Wooler, Walton, Morrissey, Bell, Needham (Brodie), McGregor.

SCUNTHORPE (0) 0
SWANSEA (0) 3 (Smith 2, James) 2,079
 Scunthorpe: O'Meara; Peacock, Pilling, Oates, Wigginton, Money, Collier (Kilmore), Wadsworth, Sealey, Lumby, Davidson.
 Swansea: Potter; Evans, Bartley, Smith, May, Bruton, Lally, James, Curtis, Charles, Chappell.

WATFORD (0) 2 (Mercer 2)
HUDDERSFIELD (0) 0 6,181
 Watford: Sherwood; Gedminits, Pritchett, Bond, Horsfield, Garner, Downes, Valley, Mercer, Mayes, Coffill.
 Huddersfield: Starling; Sweeney, Oliver (Campbell), Smith, Baines, Hart, Gray, Sidebottom, Eccles, Johnson, McCaffrey.

WORKINGTON (1) 1 (Leng)
BRENTFORD (1) 3 (Sweetzer, McCulloch, Phillips) 1,232
 Workington: Rogan; Leng, Brown, Honour, Blant, Johnston, Harris, Kisby, Prudham, Coleman (McDonald), Donaghy.
 Brentford: Priddy; Fraser, Allen, Smith, Kruse, Bain, McCulloch, Shirubb, Sweetzer, Carlton, Phillips.

SCOTTISH PREMIER

ABERDEEN (0) 0
PARTICK (1) 2 (Deans 2) 5,836
 Aberdeen: McLean; Kennedy, Shirra, Smith, Garner, Miller, Sullivan (Davidson), Scott, Harper, Rougvie (Fleming), Graham.
 Partick: Rough; Hansen (J), Whittaker, Campbell, Marr, Hansen (A), Houston, Deans, Gibson, Sonner, Craig.

HIBS (0) 0
CELTIC (0) 1 (Craig) 22,036
 Hibs: McDonald; Brownlie, Schaeffer, Bremer, Stewart, Brazil, Edwards, McLeod, Scott, Smith, Duncan.
 Celtic: Latchford; McGrain, Lynch, Stanton, McDonald, Aitken, Doyle, Glavin (Burns), Craig, Dalglish, Conn.

KILMARNOCK (2) 2 (McDicken, Smith pen.)
HEARTS (0) 2 (Smith, Prentice) 2,500
 Kilmarnock: Stewart; Maxwell, Robertson, McCulloch, Clarke, McDicken, Provan, Jardine, Fallis, Murdoch, Smith.
 Hearts: Cruickshank; Brown, Kay (Fraser), Bannon, Gallacher, Clunie, Aird, Busby, Gibson (Smith), Shaw, Prentice.

RANGERS (2) 5 (Johnstone, MacDonald 2, Hamilton, Miller pen.) 5,500
 Rangers: Kennedy; Jardine, Miller, Forsyth, Jackson (Robertson), Watson, McLean, Hamilton, Parlane, MacDonald, Johnstone.
 Ayr: Sproat; Brogan, Murphy, Fleming, Filippi, McAnespie, McCall, McDonald, Masteron, McCulloch (Christie), Joyce.

SUNDAY, APRIL 17

SCOTTISH PREMIER

MOTHERWELL (2) 4 (Pettigrew, Graham 2, Rolland o.g.)
DUNDEE UTD (0) 0 5,800
 Motherwell: Hunter; Miller (P), Wark, McAdam, McLaren, Stevens, Miller (J), Pettigrew, Graham, Davidson, Kennedy.
 Dundee U: McAlpine; Rolland, Kopel, Rennie (Hall), Smith, Narey, Sturrock, Houston, Hegarty, McAdam (Addison), Payne.

MONDAY, APRIL 18

THIRD DIVISION

WREXHAM (1) 2 (Whittle, Ashcroft)
ROTHERHAM (1) 1 (Phillips) 14,622
 Wrexham: Lloyd; Evans, Dwyer, Davis, Roberts, Thomas, Shinton, Sutton, Ashcroft, Whittle, Griffiths.
 Rotherham: McAlister; Pugh, Breckin, Rhodes, Stancliffe, Spencer, Finney, Phillips, Gwyther, Womble, Crawford.

FOURTH DIVISION

DARLINGTON (0) 0
CAMBRIDGE (0) 2 (Riley, Spriggs) 1,874
 Darlington: Ogley; Crosson, Cochrane, Nattress, Craig, Stone, Lyons, Rowles, Ferguson, Seal, Young.
 Cambridge: Webster; Batson, Harper, Stringer, Fallon, Howard, Eades, Spriggs, Bowker, Finney, Biley.

HARTLEPOOL (1) 2 (Goad, McMordie)
SWANSEA (1) 2 (Charles 2) 1,164
 Hartlepool: Edgar; Creamer, Maggiore, O'Donnell, Scott, Simpkin, Cunningham, McMordie, Turnbull, Goad, Bielby.
 Swansea: Potter; Evans, Bartley, Smith, May, Bruton, Lally, James, Curtis, Charles, Chappell (Moore).

STOCKPORT 0
SOUTHEND 0 2,122
 Stockport: Holbrook; Loadwick, Rutter, Thompson, McNeil, Smith, McBeth, Massey, Daniels, Morrin, Darling.
 Southend: Rafter; Banks, Ford, Laverick, Moody, Townsend, Morris, Goodwin, Parker, Hadley, Little.



Bobby McDonald played at left-back for Coventry during their 1-1 draw with West Brom.

TUESDAY, APRIL 19

FIRST DIVISION

COVENTRY (0) 1 (Ferguson)
W.B.A. (0) 1 (Wile) 18,999
 Coventry: Sealey; Oakey, McDonald, Yorath, Holtom (Cartwright), Coop, Beck, Wallace, Ferguson, Powell, Hutchison.
 W.B.A.: Osborne; Mulligan, Statham, Brown (T), Wile, Robertson, Martin, Cunningham, Brown (A), Giles, Johnston.

EVERTON (1) 3 (McNaught, King, Pearson)
NORWICH (0) 1 (Steele) 26,644
 Everton: Davies; Robinson, Pejic, Lyons, McNaught, King (Buckley), Rioch, Dobson, McKenzie, Pearson, Goodlass.
 Norwich: Keelan; Ryan, Sullivan, Suggett, Jones, Powell, Evans, Reeves, Gibbins, Steele, Peters.

MAN. CITY (1) 2 (Kidd 2)
BIRMINGHAM (1) 1 (Burns) 36,203
 Man. C: Corrigan; Clements, Donachie, Booth, Watson, Owen, Barnes, Keegan, Kidd, Hartford, Tuart.
 Birmingham: Montgomery; Calderwood, Pendrey, Kendall, Sbragia (Emmanuel), Want, Jones, Francis, Burns, Hibbit, Connolly.

P.R.P. (2) 4 (Givens, Kelly, Eastoe 2)
MAN. UTD (0) 0 28,848
 P.R.P.: Parkes; Clement (Abbott), Gillard, Hollins, McLintock, Webb, Eastoe, Francis, Masson, Kelly, Givens.
 Man. U: Stepney; Nicholl, Albliston, McIlroy, Greenhoff (B), Forsyth, Houston, Coppell, Greenhoff (J), Pearson, Macari, McCreery.

SECOND DIVISION

CARLISLE (1) 2 (Rafferty, O'Neill)
WOLVES (1) 1 (Hibbitt) 8,533
 Carlisle: Ross; Hoolickin, McCartney, Martin, MacDonald, Parker, McVitie, Bonnyman, Tait, Rafferty, O'Neill.
 Wolves: Pierce; Palmer, Parkin, Daley, Munro, McAle, Hibbit, Richards, Sunderland, Patching, Carr.
HULL (0) 1 (Bremner)
ORIENT (0) 1 (Roeder) 4,495
 Hull: Wealands; Nisbet, Haigh, Bremner, Daniel, Roberts, Gibson, Lord, Sunley, Dobson, Stewart.
 Orient: Jackson; Payne, Roffey, Fisher, Gray, Roeder, Possee, Alder, Hurley (Chiedozie), Glover, Whittle.

OLDHAM 0
CHELSEA 0 10,077
 Oldham: Ogden; Wood, Whittle, Bell, Holt, Hurst, Blair, Shaw, Robins, Chapman, Groves.
 Chelsea: Bonetti; Locke, Sparrow, Cooke, Wicks, Harris, Britton, Wilkins (R), Finnieston, Lewington, Langley.

THIRD DIVISION

NORTHAMPTON 0
GRIMSBY 0 5,699
 Northampton: Parton; Martin, Bryant, Gregory, Robertson, Best, Farrington, Williams, Reilly, Christie, Haywood (McGowan).
 Grimsby: Wainman; Cumming, Booth, Waters, Harvey, Gray, Lewis, Partridge, Drinkel, Boylen, Liddell.

PORTSMOUTH (0) 0
TRANMERE (1) 3 (Moore, Allen, Cliff) 12,710
 Portsmouth: Lloyd; Piper, Viney (Mellows), Kamara, Foster, Cahill, Green, Kemp, Gilchrist, Denyer, Pullar.
 Tranmere: Johnson; Parry, Flood, Bramhall, Philpotts, Palios, Mathias, Cliff, Moore, Tynan, Allen.

PRESTON (0) 2 (Thomson, Baxter)
CHESTERFIELD (1) 2 (Cammack, Hepplestone) 5,288
 Preston: Smith; McMahon, Williams, Brown, Baxter, Lawrenson, Coleman, Doyle, Thomson, Elwiss, Bruce.
 Chesterfield: Tingay; Smith, Burton, Tatt, Winstanley, Hunter, Jones, Cammack, Green, Kowalski, Hepplestone.

SHREWSBURY (1) 2 (Turner, Bates)
PETERBOROUGH (1) 1 (Nixon) 2,360
 Shrewsbury: Mulhearn; King, Leonard, Turner, Hayes, Griffin, Cross, Hornsby, Bates, Atkins, Maguire.
 Peterborough: Waugh; Hindley, Lee, Doyle, Turner, Ross, Nixon, Gregory, Cozens, Carmichael, Hughes (Heeley).

IN NEXT WEEK'S SHOOT!

Celebrate the Queen's Silver Jubilee by reading the special, eight-page section in which we chronicle 25 years of British football. All the big events retold, complete with facts, figures and photos, + Details of First Division clubs' close season tours + Spotlight on Sunderland + Previews of the two British Championship games: England v. Scotland and Wales v. N. Ireland + Brazil's manager Claudio Coutinho on qualifying for the World Cup and playing England and Scotland in their South American tours + Articles on Tony Currie (Leeds), Tom Finney (Cambridge United) and other stars of England and Scotland.



In Colour: Rod Thomas (Wales and Derby) + Sammy McIlroy (Man. Utd. and N. Ireland) + Sunderland team + Focus on Zico of Brazil + Steve Daley (Wolves) + Celtic celebrating their 25th Scottish Cup win.

DON'T MISS A SINGLE ISSUE OF SHOOT — PLACE A REGULAR ORDER NOW!

CONTINUED NEXT WEEK



MULLERY MAGIC?

No — hard work won promotion

Alan Mullery opens the door at Brighton and ushers in promotion. Mansfield 'keeper Rod Arnold (below) held this Brighton shot, but Albion won 3-1 against a team that also won promotion to the Second Division.

DEELIGHTED to be going up? I'm absolutely ecstatic about it. But don't call it "Mullery magic".

Sheer hard work is the secret behind our success this season — that's really the reason why we'll be playing Second Division football next season. And I'm delighted for everyone who did so much hard work — right from the Chairman, through to the players, through to the club officials and the groundstaff.

I think we were the best side in the Third Division and we had the best all-round squad, with 17 or 18 players. All very good performers, it meant that even when we had injuries, we had ready-made replacements able to come in and not weaken the side.

The players were already there

when I took over — I didn't have to go out and change the entire squad or anything like that. In fact, I only bought one player all season — goalkeeper Eric Steele from Peterborough United.

People say I was lucky to inherit such a good squad from Peter Taylor — and I probably was. I would say he is a very good judge of players. But I like to think I provided the motivation.

I was never worried about motivating players, even though management was new to me this season. Motivation wasn't new because I'd done it as skipper at Fulham and earlier in my career; at Spurs. But I had to work at and learn other parts of the job, like technique and mental attitudes.

I think the biggest job I had during the season was early on. When I took over, I wanted to know why a side that had been so strong at home all last season, seemed to fold up and not play when they were away from home.

I soon realised we lacked certain

Mansfield pipped us to the Championship, it was still a terrific achievement to finish runners-up.

The thing I learned most about myself was the fact that things don't always go the way you think they will. That Cup defeat by Crystal Palace in the third meeting at Stamford Bridge is an example. We played brilliantly that night and got beaten 1-0. I realised when that sort of thing happens, it's time to sit down and reflect rather than exploding, which doesn't do anyone any good. The fine I got for losing my rag that night helped me, too.

Now we go into the Second Division with high hopes. I don't go up thinking we will consolidate in our first season — mainly because I don't think anyone will LET you consolidate in the Second Division.

We'll try and do well. I don't want to finish halfway up — I'd like to see us in there aiming for promotion. We want to go on and on and on . . . not sit tight. We aim to be a

character in certain positions in the side and I quickly altered that. So that the new lads who came in got it right in terms of approach.

Did I ever have doubts that we'd make it? Not really. I always believed we were good enough. It was whether we could adapt well enough to 46 games and be consistent. As it turned out we were always in the leading group of clubs throughout the term.

We were on top after the first few weeks of the season, and the only time we were ever knocked down was when a side had played more games than us. And although

First Division club, and we can be if we believe in ourselves. We will try and make it next season — there is no point whatsoever in trying to hold on for a couple of years and then having a go.

Clinching promotion was great, and doing it in front of our own fans against Sheffield Wednesday was tremendous. It wouldn't have been quite the same if we'd done it at Chesterfield in our last game. Achieving it in front of our own supporters was really the icing on the cake.

It was a night I won't forget for the rest of my life!



The Republic of Ireland play Bulgaria in Sofia this Wednesday (June 1) in what even player-manager Johnny Giles admits is

'ONE OF THE MOST VITAL GAMES IN OUR HISTORY'

VICTORY would almost certainly ensure the Republic — not so long ago one of the jokes of world football — their first-ever place in the World Cup Finals.

At present, they have played France, the other team in their Group, twice — losing in Paris but winning in Dublin. Bulgaria, yet to play in Paris, drew 2-2 in Sofia with France.

So, an Irish win on Wednesday would make them the hottest of favourites to go through to Argentina.

Giles, always one of the shrewdest and calmest of managers, quite openly confesses this time the pressure is on.

"There is no point in denying this is a vital game for us," he says. "Quite frankly, it is one of the most vital games in the history of Irish football — if not the most important."

He adds: "Defeat would be a major blow to our hopes, but victory would be the most wonderful boost. I'm not saying we will qualify if we win in Sofia, but it would obviously put the pressure on the other two teams."

Giles, the master of planning and preparation, spied on both the French and Bulgarians during their draw in Sofia — and he was impressed with the all-round strength of the Bulgars.

But he saw nothing to make him doubt the chances of his "new look" Eire team.

"Bulgaria are a very strong-running and powerful side who work well for each other," he says. "But they do not seem to have any individual stars."

"In fact, I didn't think they were as skilful as the French and I think we have more individual class."

"But they have a marvellous home record and I noticed the crowd really gets behind them and creates a terrific atmosphere. It certainly isn't going to be easy."

But, while Giles knows it is going to be tough, he is taking his side to Sofia with the aim of winning.

"We've just got to go for victory," he says. "I think we can do it, but we must be careful."

"I know many people would think I'd be happy with a draw, but I've never believed in thinking



RIGHT... A let-off for France as Bonev of Bulgaria misses a penalty during their 2-2 draw in Sofia. Both countries are in the Republic's World Cup group. BELOW... Steve Heighway in action v. France. Republic lost their opening game in Paris 2-0.

about matches that way. If you start believing you will be okay for a draw you tend to settle down and be content with that — when you might have actually won the match.

"We have the players, people like Steve Heighway, Liam Brady, Frank Stapleton and Don Givens, who can really turn it on when they are on form and — if they all hit it off together — we can really shake the Bulgarians.

"We have no need to fear them — or any other team for that

matter — as our recent results have proved.

"In fact, even if we don't qualify in the end, I take some satisfaction from knowing we were thought of as strong candidates.

"It is a new experience for Ireland to be so well considered on the international scene and I think we have already come a long way.

"But every member of the Irish party wants victory in this group more than anything else. Qualifying for Argentina would really put us on the map in a big way — so no one need think we won't fight to the last.

"And all of us know that getting to Argentina would be the greatest possible boost to soccer back home in Ireland.

"There is a lot at stake and we have spent a long time preparing ourselves for these qualifying matches. I have the greatest of confidence in every member of my squad and I am sure we are on the right lines.

"Wednesday will be a major test for us. I'm going to Sofia with the highest of hopes."





SHOOT!

After a brief spell on loan at French club Paris Saint-Germain, David O'Leary has returned to his former club, Arsenal. With young stars such as Brady, his team-mates David O'Leary and Frank Stapleton ... not forgetting Tony Macken and Gary Doherty ... fire could well emerge as a surprise package in Argentina next June.

FOCUS ON STEVE TAYLOR

Bolton Wanderers

FULL NAME: Steven Jeffrey Taylor

BIRTHPLACE: Royton

BIRTHDATE: 18th October, 1955

HEIGHT: 5ft 10ins

WEIGHT: 11st 5lb

PREVIOUS CLUBS: None

MARRIED: No

CAR: Ford Cortina

FAVOURITE PLAYER: No one in particular

FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM:

Manchester United

MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT:

Bobby Moore

MOST MEMORABLE MATCH:

Beating Derby County in the Quarter-Finals of the League Cup this season

BIGGEST THRILL: Scoring against Oldham Athletic, my local club

BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT:

Not being taken on tour at the start of this season

BEST COUNTRY VISITED:

Switzerland

FAVOURITE FOOD: Roast beef, steak

MISCELLANEOUS LIKES: Squash, golf

MISCELLANEOUS DISLIKES:

Losing, being injured

FAVOURITE T.V. SHOWS: Fawlty Towers, The Two Ronnies

FAVOURITE SINGERS: Stevie Wonder, Three Degrees

FAVOURITE ACTORS: John Cleese, John Thaw

BEST FRIEND: Don't have one

BIGGEST INFLUENCES ON

CAREER: My dad, Bolton manager Ian Greaves and Eddie Hopkinson

BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: Bad referees

INTERNATIONAL HONOURS:

None

PERSONAL AMBITION: To stay healthy and be successful

PROFESSIONAL AMBITION: To be successful in the First Division with Bolton

IF YOU WEREN'T A

FOOTBALLER WHAT DO YOU

THINK YOU'D BE? Don't know

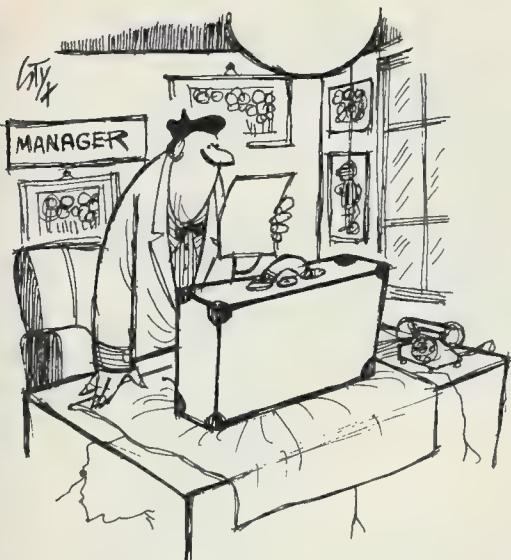
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD

WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO

MEET? Golfer Jack Nicklaus



FOOTBALL



"From the managing director and the board . . . in appreciation of three months loyal service"

"I COULD KICK MYSELF FOR MISSING THAT PENALTY!"
"BETTER LET ME - YOU MIGHT MISS -!"



"Dearie, dearie me — I see the team that was going to win the F.A. Cup are being relegated to the Fourth Division"



"End of the season, you know. Bit of a scratch team because of injuries"



This week Aldershot's TERRY BELL selects the jokes specially drawn by our cartoonist Styx.



"Before you go out and dazzle the fans with your fantastic display of football skills — you've got your boots on the wrong feet"

FUNDIES

NOBBY

WHICH WOULD YOU PUT FIRST, NOBBY, CLUB OR COUNTRY?



CLUB EVERY TIME, BOSS!



I CAN AFFORD TO BE LOYAL
I HAVEN'T BEEN PICKED FOR
THE INTERNATIONAL
MATCH ANYWAY!



MIND YOU, I WAS HOPING TO WATCH IT ON THE BOX!





'Cruyff would make a great 'keeper'

ONE of the funniest incidents that ever happened to me on a football pitch came in an international match against West Germany several years ago. I was doing a close-marking job on their midfield star Wolfgang Overath when midway through the game he turned and asked if I was shadowing him. I didn't answer and he said: "Well, I've been told to mark YOU!"

We hardly left each other's sides all night, but after that game I had a great admiration for the Cologne star. I saw his skills close up and they really are quite fascinating.

I met him again in a European tie and once more I was impressed by his talents, although Rangers managed to win through after a tough struggle. Yes, I wouldn't mind a man of Overath's calibre in my team if I was a manager.

He is one of those very underrated players, but I was glad to see him forcing his way into the World Cup-winning side three years ago. A lot of people thought Gunter Netzer had that midfield place as his own private property, but such is the grit of this man Overath he kept plugging away and eventually came good just in time.

Talking about Overath brings me nicely to players who have impressed me during my international travels.

Old Ground

I've been lucky enough to play against some of the best in the game. Not so long ago I talked about the skills of di Stefano, Puskas and Gento in this column so I won't go over old ground — you all know just how much I admired their collective and individual talents in that wonderful Real Madrid side of the Sixties.

A West German team-mate of Overath's, Franz Beckenbauer, must be one of the most dependable back-four men I have ever seen. Many people consider Franz to be a strolling, take-it-easy player, but I can assure you there is a lot more to this man's ability.

He is a bit like Bobby Moore. His talent of "reading" situations was second to none and when a good, solid tackle was called for he never pulled out. Now Beckenbauer has, of course, left Bayern Munich for the United States with the Cosmos and if he and Pele can't teach the Americans a thing or two about

soccer then no one can!

Another West German who gets into my ratings is Der Bomber, Gerd Muller — one of the deadliest penalty-box players I have seen. There is nothing fancy about Gerd.



Wolfgang Overath (above) and John Greig have had some tough battles in the past. The Rangers skipper is convinced Johan Cruyff (right) would have been a top-class 'keeper if he had opted for that role.

TARTAN TALK John Greig

He is a former full-back and sometimes he plays like one when he is in that penalty-area.

You can't push him off the ball. He makes space for himself and just wants to get that shot on target. A



lot of his goals seem close to the goalkeeper and some people have criticised him for his lack of accuracy. However, take it from me, every goalkeeper will tell you that one of the most difficult places for them to make a save is close to either their left or right leg.

Johan Cruyff, too, is a remarkable goalscorer although his range of talents would make him a good player in any department in the team — I think he would even make a great 'keeper if he put his mind to it!

And, of course, I have faced Pele and no one can fail to be amazed by this man's startling ability. He is brilliant on the ground, his control is quite breathtaking and his timing in the air is a thing of beauty. Pele had a trick that would bewilder opponents and leave them very frustrated.

He used to play the ball off your legs deliberately and move off with the rebound. Again a lot of folk may have thought he was getting a lucky break, but he never left anything to chance, believe me.

Devastating

The man who was always being compared with Pele was, of course, Portugal's Eusebio and he is another man I have faced. Eusebio didn't have the skills of Pele, but his shooting was devastating. When he pulled back either that right or left foot you knew immediately you were in trouble!

I couldn't finish an article about world stars I have admired and leave out the one-and-only Denis Law, now, alas, retired from this great game. Denis was a fellow-Scot, but even if he was English — I'm only joking! — I would have applauded his skills.

Off the pitch he was quiet and unassuming, but when he raced out of that tunnel he underwent an incredible transformation. He was a demon, a showman and, above all else, one of the greatest players we are ever likely to see.

Thanks for the memories, Denis! That's all for this week . . . I'll see you all again in a fortnight.

TARTAN TALK FROM
CELTIC'S KENNY DAL-
GLISH NEXT WEEK

THE moment of revolution is at hand for a new generation of coloured and black players eager to bring their pace, skill, rhythm and enthusiasm to the rescue of England's sagging football fortunes.

The fuse to spark off this time-bomb of talent was lit when West Bromwich Albion's Laurie Cunningham pulled on an England shirt for the first time, at Under-21 level against Scotland on April 27th. It is expected he will win full international honours and become England's answer to Pele.

His historic debut has led to the inevitable question: How many more "Black Pearls" are there and where are they?

Cunningham, the pace-maker for black footballers in this country, gives his verdict: "The players are there just waiting in the wings. I hope my success will encourage them to have a go, and other black kids will want to make it too."

Cunningham is not the only young black prospect in first class football. At Millwall, there is Trevor Lee and Phil Walker.

Millwall boss Gordon Jago describes Trevor Lee as "a bit of a character". He continues: "Trevor has his own way of dealing with

black footballers born in England was driven home to me two years ago when I took part in coaching sessions organised by Holloway School.

"Something like 25 per cent of the boys taking part were black — and all showed a mastery of the ball and imagination which excited me.

"Laurie Cunningham's greatest attribute is his control in a tight area — even in situations in which he has an opponent breathing down his neck, and his back to the goal, he is still able to create enough space to turn with the ball and get in a shot.

"He is an extremely difficult forward to mark because due to his control and sharpness in the 18-yard box, defenders must be wary of tackling late and accidentally conceding penalties.

"It is not easy for a talented black player to break through into the English League. They would be happier on dry, hard grounds and, sadly, they have to contend with a certain amount of intimidation from opposing teams and supporters."

On the other hand, Cunningham counters: "Many believe the doors are closed to them. But they are wrong.

"I know I felt the same way. At



ABOVE... John Chiedozie, who recently signed full professional forms, is following in Laurie Cunningham's footsteps at Orient.

BETWEEN... Millwall's dynamic black duo — Trevor Lee (left) and Phil Walker.

ABOVE... Laurie Cunningham, the first black player to wear the white of England.

BETWEEN... The greatest player the world has seen is black. Pele, of course.

BLACK PEARLS

opponents who give him abuse because of his colour. He threatens to move in next door to them.

"Phil Walker possesses tremendous skill, perception and control," Jago added: "good tackling is to his credit — further evidence that the non-physical reputation of coloured players is something of a myth."

Luton have Ricky Hill; Nottingham Forest have Viv Anderson and Pedro Richards; Wolverhampton are developing England Youth international Bob Hazell and at Orient, Cunningham's successor is John Chiedozie.

But it is the untapped vein of black talent in this country that is exciting Football League managers. Cunningham reckons he has played against, and seen in junior football, players who could blaze a trail right to the top.

So why do they slip through the net never to fulfill their rich promise? Is it the fault of the scouts who turn a blind-eye or are the youngsters not interested?

England boss Don Revie says: "The tremendous potential of





first I was not the sweetest person to live with. I thought life should come along and do something for me.

"I was a bit mixed up on the race thing and believed to be black in this country was to be a loser."

But George Petchey, his former manager at Orient, gave him some sound advice.

"He pointed out that the great majority of people, black or white, are in the same boat, fighting for a decent living," says Cunningham.

"People at Orient were more interested in the fact I could play, than that I was black. It encouraged me."

Johnny Giles thought the same thing when he took Cunningham to West Brom for £110,000 in March. On clinching the deal, he said: "I don't give a damn whether a boy is black, red or green. If he can play then I'm interested."

Origins are of no importance to Luton's 18-year-old starlet, Ricky Hill. "I'm out there just to play," he says.

"Often being black can help a player's career. There are so few of us in football that the better you are, the more you stand out."

Hill, an England youth international, is tipped to win full honours. At 18, time is on his side.

The same applies to Laurie Cunningham's successor at Orient, John Chiedozie. He is already an established first team player and crowd favourite in his first season.

Orient manager George Petchey says: "John has no problems here. Being coloured doesn't worry him

when he looks at what Laurie has done. And anyway why should it? People just invent this myth about coloured players having difficulties."

Petchey's theory could be sound at Brisbane Road but is possibly misguided in other areas of the Football League where some black footballers have been the victims of boo-boys.

Ricky Hill remembers an outing to Burnley early in the season when he was the target for a lot of barracking. "Some of it was nasty," he says. "A guy of the wrong temperament could react badly." But Hill had the last laugh when he scored the winner in a 2-1 victory.

Cunningham has come across barracking of a different kind — on the field. A full-back once showed him the ball and said: "Come on, try and get it. You'd be able to if it was a banana!"

But the criticism of some coloured footballers that they are not physical enough has foundations, according to Cunningham.

He admits: "White players seem to attack the ball whereas we tend to stroke it. Where they wallop it, we caress it. I suppose it all comes down to origins."

He refers to that smooth calypso rhythm blacks seem to possess. Indeed dancing is one of his loves. He believes it helps his natural ball control, awareness of space and startling acceleration.

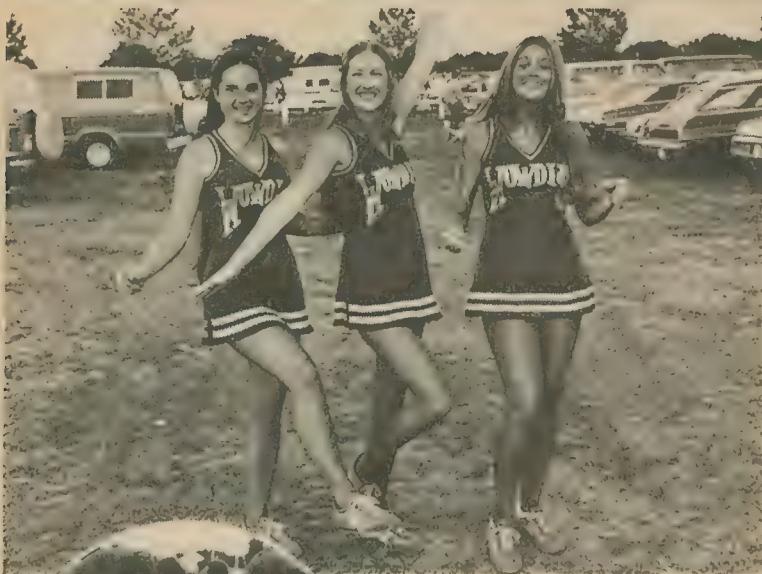
One black lad, Wolverhampton's Bob Hazell, has shown a hardness to confound the critics. It has earned him an England youth cap and brought him to the verge of first team duty. He's rugged, brave and talented. Another "Black Pearl" to grace our football pitches in the future?

Cunningham is undoubtedly the prototype. A man to be copied, and the last word must go to him: "I want to tell those black kids out there that the same kind of thing that's happening to me can happen to them. After all, we all know the best player in the world is black!"



ABOVE... Bob Hazell is getting good reports at Wolves.

RIGHT... Luton youngster Ricky Hill has been the victim of verbal abuse.



THE ONE thing American fans insist on with their sport is plenty of noise and colour.

And soccer, the States' latest sporting import, has become the craziest, most spectacular of the lot.

If you've been brought up on the Kop or at the Stretford End, you wouldn't believe what goes on at matches in America. There's so much razamatazz before, after and even during the game that for a lot of supporters, the soccer itself is secondary.

As one English player who has sampled it says: "It's like playing at Wembley every week."

Most clubs have dancing girls and pop groups performing before the kick-off, and it's not unusual for the team to arrive on the pitch in a hot air balloon, or on the backs of motor bikes.

Some of the cheerleaders can be a bit eccentric, too. One at Port-

land Timbers dresses up as a tree and blows a trumpet to liven up the fans, and another at San Jose often arrives in the middle of the pitch by helicopter.

At Tampa Bay Rowdies, where ex-Manchester City, Q.P.R. and Fulham star Rodney Marsh is playing, they even have an organist who plays throughout the match.

When the Rowdies attack, her playing speeds up with the action, and when the visitors come forward, she reverts to the death march!

Tampa, like most clubs, also have a running commentary on the play — with a few breaks for adverts.

Says Marsh: "You have to put up with all the gimmickry here, but I do think the organ is a bit of a joke. It can really get on your nerves after a while."

The promotional work is certainly paying off at Tampa,

MATCH DAY



TOP ... The Wowdies are among the cheer-leaders for The Rowdies.

CENTRE ... These fans are proud to be Fannies, the American word for soccer supporters.

BELLOW ... You meet all sorts of people at a game!

where they regularly have crowds of over 30,000 — astonishing figures for a sport that is still feeling its way in America.

The promotions men will go to any lengths to keep the fans happy. Before this season's opening game against Chicago Sting, they hired 40 kids to paste 45,000 tickets beneath the seats of the all-seated stadium, allowing the fans a rebate for the next home game.

It may all sound a bit too commercialised, but if there's one thing we can learn from the Americans it's the way they have managed to make soccer a sport for all the family.

Picnics

Dads bring along their wives and kids early for picnics in the car park — or tailgate parties as they call them — although naturally, the warm weather helps in that direction.

The fans may not quite understand all the finer points of the game yet — but the main thing, as far as the promoters are concerned, is that they all have fun.

Derek Smethurst, the ex-Chelsea and Millwall striker who also plays for Tampa says: "They're pretty ignorant as far as understanding how the game goes. I remember one of the first games here when someone kicked the ball about 30 yards in the air and all the supporters started clapping. It was hilarious."

The players' wives and families are encouraged to attend the games more, too.



Marsh's wife Jean and their two children watched him in action for the first time in the Chicago game.

Jean, enjoying a barbecue, with other fans before kick-off said: "The wives are made to feel they are in the way in England. But here everyone does things together."

One problem they've not heard of in America yet is hooliganism — although the sight of armed policemen around the ground would probably put even the worst Manchester United supporter on his best behaviour.

Said one of the Tampa policemen: "We don't have any problems. Now and again a fan does get over-excited and runs on the pitch, but we just put him back in the crowd again."

"Do we ever throw them out? Hell no, they're only having a little fun."

Toilet rolls haven't become fashionable for football fans either —

first. But it was certainly a different experience.

"Even though it's difficult for a goalkeeper, I'm all in favour of it. It's definitely more exciting for the supporters and I think it's a good thing to have a result every game.

"Just think of all the games in the League in England that finish 0-0. The fans don't want that, and this way there is no percentage for a side that just tries to hang on for a draw."

Old cunning

Banks, who is billed by Lauderdale as "The greatest goalkeeper in the world," showed all his old cunning in the Toronto shoot-out.

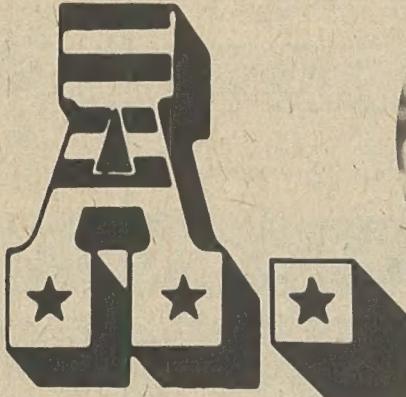
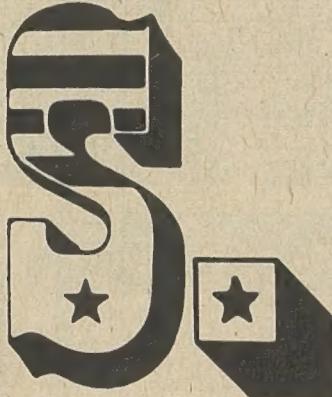
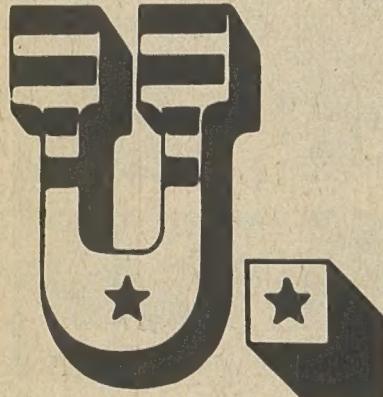
He saved from one of the Toronto forwards and forced another to shoot wide to give his team victory 4-3. That earned them a maximum nine League points —



BELOW . . . No soccer violence in the States as families enjoy a peaceful day out.

CENTRE . . . Wherever there's football, there's a yellow card!

BOTTOM . . . Players take to the field in style.



although a goal is usually greeted with a shower of confetti or rice.

The Americans have made a few alterations in the rules of the game, too, in a bid to increase the excitement for the fans. They have a 35-yard line for off-sides, and this season they've introduced a new tie-break method if the game finishes all-square.

In the States, every game has to have a positive result, so if the teams are still level after 90 minutes and the 15 minutes of sudden-death extra-time, they have a shoot out.

This has replaced the old penalties system. A player is given the ball on the 35 yard line and he then has five seconds to get it past the goalkeeper in a one against one situation. Each side has five attempts.

six for a win and one for each of the first three goals.



Comeback

Gordon Banks, the ex-England goalkeeper now making a comeback for Fort Lauderdale Strikers, had to face up to a shoot-out in only his second appearance against last season's Champions Toronto.

Says Banks: "You can make yourself look such an idiot that it's difficult to know what to do at

SCORE A 100 SOCCER CENTURY

Tackle this quiz, section by section, checking your answers with those printed upside down beneath each section. Award yourself four points for each correct answer. Then add up your scores and see how close you are to the maximum total of 100.

CHRISTIAN NAMES

1. --- Abbott (Q.P.R.)
2. --- Mahoney (Stoke)
3. --- Nulty (Newcastle)
4. --- Strong (Fulham)
5. --- Hibbitt (Wolves)

Answers

1. Ron. 2. John. 3. Geoff. 4. Les. 5. Kenny.

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NICKNAMES

Here we've wrongly paired some of Britain's clubs and their nicknames. See if you can sort them out.

1. Spireites (Grimsby)
2. The Ironsides (Chesterfield)
3. The Hatters (Gillingham)
4. The Mariners (Luton)
5. The Gills (Newport)

Answers

Luton. 4. Grimsby. 5. Gillingham.
1. Chesterfield. 2. Newport. 3.

SPOT-ON

On Saturday, May 7th, the players below scored from penalties. Can you name the clubs they were spot-on for?

1. Bob Curtis
2. Vic Halom
3. John Buchanan (right)
4. David Peach
5. Paul Hinshelwood

Answers

Palace. 4. Southampton. 5. Crystal Palace.
1. Charlton Athletic. 2. Oldham. 3.

SCOTTISH CUP FINAL



Answers

4. Penalty. 2. 1-0 to Celtic. 3. 54,252.



TRUE OR FALSE

1. West Ham's Bryan Robson began his League career with Newcastle.
2. Alan Mullery skippered Spurs to their 1967 F.A. Cup Final win against Chelsea.
3. Queen of the South are nicknamed The Doonhammers.
4. Mansfield Town play their home games at Field Mill.
5. Stoke's acting manager George Eastham was a Scottish international.

Answers

1. True. 2. False — Dave Mackay did. 3. True. 4. True. 5. False — he was an England international.

CHECK YOUR RATING

88-100 . . . Excellent.	80-86 . . . Very Good.
68-78 . . . Good.	52-66 . . . Average.
50 . . . Under	Never mind, try again next week.

YOUR OVERALL TOTAL

GO FOR THE DOUBLE ANSWERS

ACROSS: (1) Law (4) Woods. (8) Halifax. (9) Rot. (11) Men. (12) My. (13) Up. (14) Since. (17) Do. (18) Am. (20) Lop. (21) Brian Clough. (22) Odd. (23) Arc. (25) Ace. (27) Ibex. (29) Ingham. (30) Vest. (32) Gresty. (33) Duty.

DOWN: (1) Lampard. (2) Ale. (3) Wins. (4) Warn. (5) Ox. (6) Dry. (7) So. (10) Trophy. (12) Me. (15) Inner. (16) Calf. (17) Dog. (19) Mid. (20) Lurch. (21) Boring. (23) Axes. (24) City. (25) Aged. (26) East. (28) Eve. (31) St.

Jumbled Name: COLIN SUGGETT

A NEW ERA FOR WEST GERMANY

THE DEPARTURE of Franz Beckenbauer to The United States could see the start of a new era in West Germany.

For years, Bayern Munich have supplied the nucleus of the international side, captained by the 31-year-old Beckenbauer, who had not missed a game since 1970.

But against Yugoslavia in Belgrade recently, the Germans played the last 45 minutes without any Bayern stars.

Goalkeeper Sepp Maier was substituted by Rudi Kargus of Hamburger SV, so for the first time since May, 1968, in Cardiff against Wales, Germany were without a single Bayern player.

The Germans don't appear to be suffering from the loss of Beckenbauer, whose international future is still uncertain.

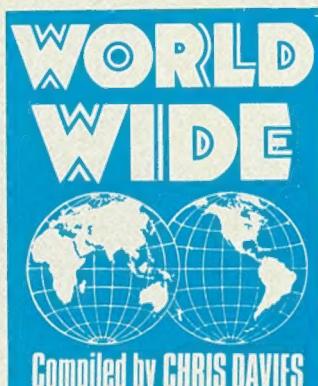
Under new captain Berti Vogts (30) Germany beat Northern Ireland 5-0 and Yugoslavia 2-1 with largely experimental line-ups.

Jerzy Gorgon, the giant Poland sweeper, is in trouble again.

The 27-year-old Pole was suspended for a year once for excessive drinking.

He made a successful comeback, promising to behave, but it seems as if Gorgon is up to his old habits.

After being "sent away" by Gornik Zabrze, Gorgon now plays for Sparta Warsaw (irregularly) but his international days are numbered.



PELE'S team struggle

THE COSMOS, who on paper have the finest team in the North American Soccer League and a theoretically "unbeatable" defence — are having problems settling down into the new season. They lost three of their first five games, two in the controversial tie-breaking "Shoot-out", and scored only seven goals.

Both multi-million dollar superstar attackers Pele and Giorgio Chinaglia, have missed goals in the Shoot-out and defenders have been doing the bulk of the scoring . . . even in a defeat goals are valuable for the points they carry.

Chinaglia joked he was becoming an expert in shooting wide and said: "The whole team should be shaken up, including me. We aren't working well together yet."

The NASL season is only 26 games and the Cosmos are beginning to fall back in their attempt on the Championship. Hopefully the arrival of Beckenbauer from West Germany within the next few weeks will buck them up.



Soccer American style — Pele is greeted by a giant "bee" before the Cosmos/Chicago Sting game.

Manager Helmut Schoen used the games to try new players and against the Slavs, only Vogts, Bonhof and Flohe had any sort of experience at this level.

What marvellous strength in depth the Germans have. When you consider the world-class stars they've lost since 1974, it's remarkable they're still regarded as Europe's top team.



West Germany line-up before their game against Northern Ireland, from left: Vogts, Maier, Kaltz, Nogly, Bonhof, Hölszenbein, Fischer, Dietz, Abramczik, Dieter Müller, Flohe.

Reserves O.K.

Spanish club Athletic Bilbao fielded a reserve side for their recent League match in Barcelona against Espanyol. Their manager, Koldo Aguirre, explained he wanted his first-teamers fit and fresh for the U.E.F.A. Cup Final against Juventus, and most Spanish people thought his decision was sensible.

It's interesting that the Spaniards are prepared to make sacrifices in the quest for international success, whereas if, say, Liverpool had fielded a reserve side for a League game they would have been given a stiff fine by the F.A.

SOUTH AMERICA'S SHOCK TEAM

THIS IS BOLIVIA, the unlikely qualifiers from the South American World Cup group. They now play-off against Brazil and Peru; the bottom team in this "round-robin" tournament will play-off against the winner of European Group Nine for a place in Argentina.

The South American tournament is held during July, but the three sides couldn't reach agreement on the venue.

Not surprisingly, each of the three countries wanted to be the hosts — but the other two objected!

F.I.F.A. then stepped in and chose a neutral country as the site for the games — Cali, Colombia!



BACK ROW: Angulo, C. Jiménez, Baldívieso, Lima, Campos, Rimazza. FRONT ROW: Trainer, Morales, Aragónés, P. Mezza and Aguilar.

Holland manager leaves

Once again, Holland — who never seem to be free of internal or "political" problems — are without a manager.

Jan Zwartkruis, 51, after twice being the caretaker-manager, agreed to take the job full-time after the players asked for him.

Zwartkruis was reluctant at first as he is in the Dutch Air Force and is still four years from his pension.

However, his superiors gave him the go-ahead. But now, Zwartkruis says there is "jealousy" in the Air Force and wants to leave his soccer job.

There's controversy in Uruguay after the F.A. blocked the transfer of Nacional midfielder Dario Pereira to São Paulo in Brazil. After Uruguay's humiliating elimination from the World Cup by humble Bolivia, the F.A. is determined to check the exodus of young players from the country, and has banned all international transfers involving players who are under 21.

Pereira's club, Nacional, are shocked that the £85,000 deal hasn't gone through — they claim the transfer is the only way the club can avoid bankruptcy.

Dieter Müller of 1.F.C. Cologne is now favourite to win the Adidas Golden Shoe Award for Europe's top hot-shot. Thirteen goals in 32 games is Müller's record so far.

Real say goodbye to Europe

REAL MADRID'S recent 4-2 defeat in Las Palmas pushed them down to tenth out of 18 in the Spanish First Division, with virtually no hope of European football next season.

It's been a miserable season for Real, and I can't help but feel sorry for their likeable manager Miljan Miljanic. Soon after Christmas, the Madrid Press turned against him, and little by little an intensive campaign for his dismissal got underway.

By April, the Yugoslav manager was being called all the names under the sun, and some of the personal comments were really vicious.

One Madrid paper even began to run a series titled "The 21 Errors of Miljan Miljanic", and the sports papers began to make fun of almost everything he said.

Poor old Miljan stood up to the pressure very well, though he eventually lost his usual amiable smile.

Two years of success are soon forgotten when things turn against you . . .

Kidnapping in Italy

Kidnapping wealthy football club presidents and their relatives has become big business in Italy in the last few years. The latest victims were 71-year-old Torino vice president Giuseppe Navone who was released when relatives paid the ransom, but 24 hours later 28-year-old Massimo Balesi, son of AS Roma vice president Renzo Balesi was snatched from his car as he arrived home in the evening.

ENGLAND UNDER-21'S



THE ENGLAND Under-21 squad that beat Scotland 1-0 at Bramall Lane, Sheffield, on 27th April. Don Revie's youngsters will be facing Finland (May 26th) and Norway (June 1st) in the first European Under-21's tournament. BACK ROW (from left): Paul Haigh (Hull City), Steve Williams

(Southampton), Steve Sims (Leicester City), Paul Bradshaw (Blackburn Rovers), Steve Hardwick (Newcastle United), Paul Fitcher (Luton Town), Graham Rix (Arsenal). FRONT ROW: Peter Daniels (Hull City), Keith Bertschin (Ipswich

Town), Gary Owen (Manchester City), Laurie Cunningham (West Brom), Peter Barnes (Manchester City), David Peach (Southampton), Peter Reid (Bolton Wanderers), Paul Garner (Sheffield United), Keith Edwards (Sheffield United).

SHOOT!